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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

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eRegions

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EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Thank you everyone who attended the 2012 National Conference of Regions last week. What a stunning success! The Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Shaun Donovan, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation Ray LaHood, Chair of the U.S.

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PROGRAMUPDATE

Local Governments Adopting Solar Energy: Results from a recent International City/County Management (ICMA) survey shed light on the challenges and opportunities local government are facing in their efforts to adopt solar energy technologies. For more information and to access summary data, click [HERE](#).

HUD Launches Sustainable Communities Resource Center:

Secretary Donovan, in an address to the National Association of Regional Councils, stressed the importance of restoring funding to the Sustainable Housing and Communities grant programs critical to achieving the President's goal of creating new American jobs and an economy to last. He also launched HUD's new [Sustainable Communities Resource Center](#). See [HERE](#) for press release and [HERE](#) for speech transcript.

New DHS Grant Guidance Released: Last week, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) released FY12 grant guidance, covering seven program areas, encouraging applicants to use the money for sustaining current capabilities instead of developing new ones. This includes training and exercises, updates to current plans and

House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee
John Mica, Deputy Administrator for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Bob Perciasepe, Regional Administrator for the Federal Emergency Management Agency
MaryAnn Tierney, Assistant Secretary, Employment and Training Administration for the U.S. Department of Labor
Jane Oates, Congressman Gerry Connolly, Deputy Director of The White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs
David Agnew, President of mCapitol Management
Gary LaPaille, multiple session speakers, a wealth of information and *your attendance* made the event one of the best. If you could not, or didn't want, to attend the conference, I encourage you to schedule it for next year. This is the premier event for elected officials and staff of regional planning organizations of all sizes to come together, interact with the Administration and Congress, and discuss and plan for the regional agenda. Next time we see you all will be in St. Petersburg for the 46th

procedures, and equipment maintenance and life cycle replacement. This change comes after the Department's approximate \$1 billion FY12 funding cut. According to DHS, the FY12 grants, will focus on areas at the highest risk of an attack or disaster, including urban areas "that continue to face the most significant threats." Grant applications are due May 4. The below are the FY12 program allocation. Click [HERE](#) for the official DHS guidance.

- \$294 million for the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) (\$233 million reduction).
- \$490 million for the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) (\$173 million reduction).
- \$46 million for Operation Stonegarden (\$7 million reduction).
- \$339 million for the Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG).
- \$6 million for the Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program (THSGP).
- \$10 million for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP).
- \$10 million for the Intercity Passenger Rail (Amtrak) program.
- \$97 million for the Port Security Grant Program (PSGP).
- \$87 million for the Transit Security Grant Program (TSGP).

2012 EPA National Award for Smart Growth Achievement: The application period for the 11th annual National Award for Smart Growth Achievement is now open. This competition is open to public- and private-sector entities that have successfully used smart growth principles to improve communities environmentally, socially, and economically. Application deadline: April 6. Award guidelines and entry form are available [HERE](#).

POLICYUPDATE

Congress is out of session for an in-district work period.

Payroll Tax Deal to be Signed into Law: The House and Senate both approved and the President is expected to sign into law HR 3630, the Temporary Payroll Tax Cut Continuation Act of 2011, which would extend the Social Security payroll tax rate of 4.2 percent, same as 2011, and maintain unemployed benefits.

Public Safety Broadband Call with Vice President Joe Biden: This afternoon, the Office of the Vice President held a conference call to

Annual Conference and Exhibition.

Till then - cheers,
Fred

NARCSTAFF

Fred Abousleman

Executive Director

Shannon Baxevanis

Deputy Director

Mia Colson

Program Analyst

Kristin Heery

Program Analyst

Jenee Kresge

Economic and
Community Development
Manager

Lindsey Riley

Deputy of
Communications

Erika Young

Transportation Director

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discuss the creation of an interoperable nationwide broadband network for public safety. Participants included Vice President Joe Biden and representatives of first responders from across the country. Vice President Biden noted that the Public Safety Broadband Network was included as part of the Temporary Payroll Tax Cut Continuation Act of 2011 (HR 3630) and would provide \$7 billion to build the D-Block of the 700MHz broadband spectrum for use as a nationwide network for first responders to communicate with each other and across jurisdictions. NARC strongly supports using the D-block to build a nationwide interoperable emergency communications network.

REGIONS360

A Penny for Your Thoughts: NARC Senior Vice President Penny Gross' column appears in The Falls Church News-Press. In her most recent column, available [HERE](#), Senior Vice President Gross highlights events from NARC's recent National Conference of Regions, as well as current issues in Congress.

PARTNERUPDATE

EcoSummit 2012: The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission will host EcoSummit 2012, September 30-October 5, 2012 in Columbus, Ohio. The Call for Abstracts has been released. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

GRANTOPPORTUNITIES

U.S. DOE Smart Grid Data Access Funding Opportunity – \$8 million

Application Due: March 1, 2012

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) National Energy Technology Laboratory is seeking applications aimed at empowering consumers to better manage their electricity use by enabling access to electricity consumption data by customers and their authorized third parties, and providing or supporting the use of third party tools and software products that use the available data to deliver a value-added service to the customer. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

The National Endowment for the Arts

Deadline: March 1, 2012

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) announced funding for the 2012 Our Town grants, which supports creative placemaking projects that contribute toward the livability of communities and help transform them into lively, beautiful, and sustainable places. Grants will range from \$25,000 to \$150,000. Click [HERE](#) for guidelines and more information.

Funders' Network: Local Sustainability Matching Fund

Deadline: March 5, 2012

In partnership with the Urban Sustainability Directors Network, the Funders' Network is pleased to announce the formation of the Local Sustainability Matching Fund. The Fund has been created with leadership support from four Network members: the Keneda Fund, the New York Community Trust, the Summit Foundation, and the Surdna Foundation. The purpose of the [Local Sustainability Matching Fund](#) is: to catalyze partnerships between local government sustainability directors and local, place-based foundations, including community foundations, and to advance important community-based sustainability initiatives. The Fund will provide partnership investments between \$25,000 and \$75,000, with a 1:1 match required by one or more local foundation. The Network anticipates that the Fund will support up to ten partnership projects in the first year in two rounds in the spring and fall of 2012. The application deadline for the first round is March 5th, and you may [download the Request for Proposals here](#). Applications must be submitted in MS Word and use the application [Cover Sheet](#). The Network will host a conference call to provide more information on the fund and review the selection criteria. The call will be held on January 24th, at 2:00 p.m. Eastern, and you may register for the call by [clicking here](#). A selection committee comprised of foundation representatives and urban sustainability directors will make selection decisions on behalf of the matching fund, and awards will be announced on May 5, 2012. For more information on the Local Sustainability Matching Fund, please contact Ann Wallace at ann@fundersnetwork.org or 617-524-9239.

U.S. DOL Workforce Innovation Fund Grant Opportunity

Application Due: March 22, 2012

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) Employment and Training Administration, will award approximately \$98.5 million in Workforce Innovation Fund grants to support innovative approaches to the design and delivery of employment and training services that generate long-term improvements in the performance of the public workforce system, both in terms of outcomes for job seeker and employer customers and cost-effectiveness. Grants are awarded at three tiered funding levels for

new and untested ideas (\$1-3 million per award), promising ideas (\$3-6 million per award) and adapting proven ideas (\$6-12 million per award). Additional information and links to download the SGA can be found [HERE](#).

UPCOMINGEVENTS

Using U.S. EPA's GHG Reporting Data Webinar

March 1, 2012, 2:00 pm ET: For the first time, comprehensive greenhouse gas (GHG) data reported directly from large facilities and suppliers across the country are now easily accessible to the public through EPA's GHG Reporting Program. This information can be used by state and local governments to identify nearby sources of GHGs, identify opportunities to improve efficiency and reduce emissions, or to inform policies and programs. Staff from EPA's GHG Reporting Program will take attendees through EPA's online data publication tool that allows users to view and sort GHG data for calendar year 2010 from over 6,700 facilities in a variety of ways—including by facility, location, industrial sector, and the type of GHG emitted—and discuss ways in which state and local governments may be able to use this data. To register, click [HERE](#).

Creating a Sustainable Pathway: Inaugural Eagle Ford Shale Consortium

February 29 - March 2, 2012, San Antonio, TX: Highlights of the conference will include regulatory oversight, education and workforce development, advances in drilling and hydraulic fracturing, economic development and infrastructure development. A pre-conference session on February 29 will focus solely on housing challenges and opportunities. Click [HERE](#) for additional information about the event.

Green Infrastructure Workshop

March 5-9, 2012, Shepherdstown, WV: The Conservation Fund's National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV is hosting *Strategic Conservation Planning Using a Green Infrastructure Approach* on March 5-9, 2012. This workshop provides participants with a strategic approach for prioritizing conservation opportunities and a planning framework for conservation and development- integrating the green and the grey. For more information, click [HERE](#).

Saving with Solar: Understanding Retail Solar Power Purchase

Agreements Webinar

March 15, 2012, 2:00 pm ET: This webinar will provide a summary of where and under what conditions, retail Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) work in the U.S. The discussion will mention the intricacies that affect the legality of retail PPAs, including highlighting financial issues. This webinar is free of charge; register [HERE](#).

Are Regions Adapting to Climate Change? Webinar

March 15, 2012, 1:00 pm ET: NARC is wrapping up a multi-year project funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to understand what regional organizations are doing to adapt to climate change. Different from mitigation, adaptation is focused on the planning actions and strategies that can be implemented to respond to the impacts of climate change (e.g., flooding, extreme weather events, drought, sea level rise). The study included a survey of regional organizations, a joint NOAA-NARC workshop, and case study research. Join this free webinar to learn about and discuss the key findings of this study, including an analysis of survey results and comments from the case study organizations. Registration information will be available soon.

Get the Right Answers from Your Police and Fire Chiefs - Full Day Workshop

March 15, 2012, Palo Alto, CA: Policy decisions involving your police and fire departments could have huge public safety implications, but these departments are the toughest from which to get accurate, measurable information. Join us for a full day ICMA University Workshop, Asking Your Police and Fire Chief the Right Questions to Get the Right Answers, to learn how to understand the needs of your jurisdiction's public safety agencies and employ methods to evaluate their performance; reduce costs and improve services. The workshop will include an expanded presentation about workload analysis and EMS sections and include a discussion of mergers and consolidations including public safety departments. Click [HERE](#) for details and to register.

Transportation Summit

March 30, 2012, Toledo, OH: The Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) is hosting the 18th Transportation Summit on Friday, March 30th. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.

Get the Right Answers from Your Police and Fire Chiefs - Full Day Workshop

April 20, 2012, Lake Forest, IL: Policy decisions involving your police and fire departments could have huge public safety implications, but these departments are the toughest from which to get accurate, measurable information. Join us for a full day ICMA University Workshop, Asking Your Police and Fire Chief the Right Questions to Get the Right Answers, to learn how to understand the needs of your jurisdiction's public safety agencies and employ methods to evaluate their performance; reduce costs and improve services. The workshop will include an expanded presentation about workload analysis and EMS sections and include a discussion of mergers and consolidations including public safety departments. Click [HERE](#) for details and to register.

46th Annual Conference and Exhibition

June 10-14, 2012, St. Petersburg, FL: Save the Date! Join us for the the largest national event focused on promoting effective regional cooperation and solutions through interaction and education. NARC's Annual Conference and Exhibition is the premier place to learn how to engage in effective regional collaboration. Registration and additional information will be available in early 2012.

2012 Executive Directors' Conference

September 24-26, 2012, Boise, ID: Save the Date! Join Executive Directors and senior staff of regional councils and metropolitan planning organizations at this premier regional training event. Registration information and a draft agenda will be available in mid 2012.

2012 EcoSummit

September 30-October 5, 2012, Columbus, OH: EcoSummit 2012 will bring together the world's most respected minds in ecological science to discuss restoring the planet's ecosystems. Click [HERE](#) for additional information - now accepting Call for Abstracts!

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