

Email not displaying correctly? Click [HERE](#) to view it as a PDF.



## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XI, No. 9, March 7, 2011

# eRegions

### **NARCLEADERSHIP**

President James 'Jim'

Townsend,

Judge/Executive,

Webster County,

Kentucky

Chair Charles 'Chick'

Krautler,

Executive Directors

Council

Director, Atlanta

Regional Commission

[PROGRAMUPDATE](#) [POLICYUPDATE](#)

[PARTNERUPDATE](#)

[GRANTOPPORTUNITIES](#) [UPCOMINGEVENTS](#)



### **EXECUTIVEBRIEF**

Colleagues,

The buzz is out there on our official launch of the 45th Annual Conference and Exhibition in San Diego sponsored by the San Diego Association of Governments and the Southern California Association of Governments. Grab your early bird

## **REGISTER TODAY!**

You're invited to join local elected officials, senior staff, planners and programmers from Councils of Government and Metropolitan Planning Organizations around the country at the largest event focused on promoting effective regional cooperation and solutions through interaction and education - NARC's 45th Annual Conference and Exhibition. A draft agenda will be available soon. Click [HERE](#) to register or contact Lindsey Riley at [lindsey@narc.org](mailto:lindsey@narc.org) or 202.986.1032 x220 for more information.

registration and book your rooms as they are going fast. We will have in-depth discussions, exchanges and presentations on sustainable communities, transportation, security and safety, energy, and the environment, as well as many other topics. I look forward to seeing everyone in June.

I am also on the road for the next few weeks visiting our members from Oregon, Washington State, Florida and California. I hope to see many more of you this year.

We are also still diligently monitoring and communicating on the FY 11 and FY 12 budgets and CR. If you haven't checked our resource page out yet please do so by clicking [HERE](#).

Best,  
Fred

**NARCSTAFF**

**Fred Abousleman**

Executive Director

**Shannon Baxevanis**

Deputy Director

**Sylvia Bryant**

Office Manager

## PROGRAMUPDATE

**Comment Period on EDA Regulations ends this Wednesday:** The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) is requesting comments from stakeholders to help the agency update its regulations to more effectively partner with communities and organizations to create jobs and economic growth. Details are available in a Federal Register Notice (available [here](#)) and comments can be posted directly on [EDA's website](#) through March 9, 2011. Please share any submitted comments with Jenee Kresge, [jenee@narc.org](mailto:jenee@narc.org).

**5 Key Qualities of Good Emergency Planning:** Click [HERE](#) to access the article.

**DHS Blog Post:** Last week, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Assistant Administrator of the Recovery Directorate posted, *Engaging Voluntary Agencies Before, During, and After a Disaster*, which details how voluntary agencies can be tapped and their role. Click [HERE](#) to access the post.

**EDA Names New Deputy Assistant Secretary for Regional Affairs:** The U.S. Commerce Department's Economic Development Administration (EDA) today announced that Thomas C. Guevara has joined EDA as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Regional Affairs. A seasoned leader, Mr. Guevara brings over 21 years of management experience in financial advisory services, public-private partnership finance and local economic development consulting. He joins EDA at a pivotal time in the administration when the agency is making changes to streamline its processes and improve EDA programs and services to better serve the agency's customers. To learn more about EDA, visit [www.eda.gov](http://www.eda.gov).

---

## POLICYUPDATE

*The House and Senate are in session.*

**Short-term Federal Funding Extension Signed into Law:** House Resolution 44 has been signed into law by the President to keep the government funded until March 18. This gives Congress a two week window to negotiate a longer continuing resolution effort. This extension includes \$4B in cuts - \$1.2B from Obama's FY12 budget request, as well as \$2.7B from

**Naomi Friedman**

Project Director

**Jenee Kresge**

Economic and  
Community  
Development Manager

**Lindsey Riley**

Deputy of  
Communications

**Erika Young**

Transportation Director

To access past issues  
of *eRegions*, **visit our  
website.**

Make NARC your  
homepage —  
**click here to learn  
how.**

FY10 earmarks. Click **HERE** to access a full list of cuts. Click **HERE** to access the bill text.

**Senate Unveils Continuing Resolution:** On March 4, the Senate Appropriations Committee released its highlights and text of its Continuing Resolution to keep the government funded through September 30, 2011. The Senate Democrats are proposing to reduce \$51 billion in spending below the President's FY11 request, and \$6.5 billion in cuts from current levels; H.R. 1 includes nearly \$100 billion in cuts from the President's request, and \$61.5 billion below current levels. The Senate is now organizing a series of test votes this week on the varying approaches to spending plans. Click **HERE** to access the Senate Appropriations Committee press release on the effort. Click **HERE** to view the bill amendment text from the Committee. NARC will be conducting a thorough review of the Senate plan as it relates to the H.R. 1, and will provide this to the membership via **NARC's Federal Budget webpage.**

**SAFETEA-LU Long-term Extension Signed into Law:** On Friday, HR 662, the Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2011, was signed into law to extend surface transportation programs originally authorized by SAFETEA-LU through the remainder of the fiscal year, September 30, 2011. Many groups, including NARC have sent letters supporting this effort. Click **HERE** to access NARC's letter to Congressional leaders.

**Senate Democrats Release Interactive Map on How H.R. 1 Would Impact States:** Last week the Senate Democrats released an interactive map showing their calculations for how House- passed long-term continuing resolution bill, H.R. 1, would affect each state. Click **HERE** to access the map.

**NARC Budget Materials Featured in Article:** NARC's H.R. 1 brownfields talking points were featured in the *Milwaukee News Buzz*, operated by *Milwaukee Magazine*. Click **HERE** to read the article.

**House Financial Services to Mark Up Housing Bills:** On Wednesday at 10am, the **House Financial Services Committee** will mark up bills that terminate the Home Affordability Modification (HR 839) and Neighborhood Stabilization (HR 861) programs.

**Send NARC Your Regulation Recommendations:** NARC requests members submit ideas for streamlining federal regulations – either broad concepts or agency specific – that look to promote innovation, cost

efficiencies and effectiveness, flexibility, and the reduction of barriers. Click [HERE](#) to access NARC's submission form. Please send all submissions by **Friday, April 8, 2011** to Joe Patterson at [intern3@narc.org](mailto:intern3@narc.org).

**GAO Report on Government Programs and Potential Savings:** Click [HERE](#) to access the report.

**Florida High Speed Rail Funding Update:** On Friday, the Florida Supreme Court upheld Governor Rick Scott's (R-FL) decision to reject \$2.4 billion in high speed rail federal stimulus funding intended for the state. Gov. Scott is now the fourth Governor to reject these funds, along with Gov. Chris Christie (R-NJ), Gov. Kasich (R-OH) and Gov. Scott Walker (R-WI). Two state senators, petitioning on behalf of a larger coalition of interests, maintained that Gov. Scott overstepped his executive authority by rejecting the funds. Gov. Scott argued that the cost to the State of Florida far exceeded the benefits of accepting these funds. US DOT will now redistribute these funds to other states. Click [HERE](#) to view a copy of the Florida Supreme Court Ruling.



**OKI Releases New Transportation Videos:** The Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI) has created a series of videos about transportation priorities within its region. Click [HERE](#) to access the videos. OKI's top priority is to secure funding through the Federal Transportation Funding Legislation for the I-71/I-75/Brent Spence Bridge project through project development and the first two years of funding. Funding for this project must be secured to clear this critical chokepoint on the I-75 freight corridor, the busiest surface freight corridor in the nation. For additional information about OKI, visit [www.OKI.org](http://www.OKI.org).

---

## PARTNERUPDATE

**NACo Produces Video Success Stories for County Energy Projects:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) has created 11 short videos featuring successful implementation of energy projects by counties around the United States, including counties in Pennsylvania, Florida, South Carolina, Maryland, California, Arizona, Illinois, Washington, Texas and Illinois. Videos are available by clicking [HERE](#).

**NACo's 2011 Rail Conference:** April 27-29, 2011. Sponsored by NACo, NLC and NARC, this conference will focus on the impact of freight and passenger rail on county, city and state governments and their citizens and businesses. Click [HERE](#) to access the tentative agenda and registration information.

**March is National Ethics Awareness Month: Raise the Visibility of Ethics at Your Workplace:** One way of helping protect the integrity of your organization is to keep ethics in the forefront with your employees. In the public sector, we need to understand that while something might be legal, it doesn't mean it's ethical. In these challenging times, everyone could use a refresher to help build skills and learn practical strategies for making ethical choices. ICMA offers workshops such topics as ["Ethics at Work!"](#), ["Ethical Survivor"](#), ["Promoting an Ethical Culture"](#), ["The Leader's Role in Building an Ethical Culture"](#) and ["Elected Officials and the Public Trust"](#) are available for staff, leadership, elected officials, boards and commissions. For information about local government ethics workshops and technical assistance services, contact Martha Perego at the ICMA Ethics Center at 202.962-3521 or visit [icma.org/ethics](http://icma.org/ethics) for information on general ethics topics.

**ICMA Mid Career Managers Institute:** The International City/County Management Association (ICMA) is offering a Mid Career Managers Institute, (MCM) a focused development program for those who identify themselves as mid career professionals at four of its Regional Summit locations. This half-day Institute will provide: broader understanding of your responsibilities as leaders; perspective on some of the critical leadership and management issues facing mid-career managers; and understanding and awareness of concepts and techniques relevant to local government management. Just \$50 to attend. It's not "just lunch"! You are invited to participate in the Thursday morning Young Professionals Leadership Institute session with Bob O'Neill, ICMA's executive director and the ICMA-RC work-life balance session as our guest. Come design your future by co-creating a program built by mid career managers for mid career managers and connect with other Mid Career Managers in your region. Full details are located at [http://icma.org/en/Page/100243/Mid\\_Career\\_Management\\_Institute](http://icma.org/en/Page/100243/Mid_Career_Management_Institute).

---

## GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

**EDA Public Works, Economic Adjustment and Global Climate Change Mitigation Programs Opportunity**

*Deadline: March 10, 2011*

The U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) generally allocates funds for the Global Climate Change Mitigation Incentive Fund (GCCMIF) to support projects that foster economic competitiveness while enhancing environmental quality. EDA anticipates that these funds will be used to advance the green economy by supporting projects that create jobs and increase private capital investment in initiatives to limit the nation's dependence on fossil fuels, enhance energy efficiency, curb greenhouse gas emissions and protect natural systems. While the amount of funding available through this opportunity is dependent on FY2011 appropriations and is not yet known, EDA allocated \$25 million for the GCCMIF in 2010. The average size of a GCCMIF investment was approximately \$840,000. For more information, including regional contacts, see the synopsis of this funding opportunity on [Grants.gov](#).

#### **FY11 Environmental Workforce Development Grants Available**

*Deadline: March 18, 2011*

The U.S. EPA recently announced the availability of \$4 million to fund approximately 13 awards of up to \$300,000 each. Regional councils are specifically named as eligible applicants for the awards, which will support the delivery of environmental workforce development and job training programs focused on hazardous and solid waste management, assessment and cleanup-associated activities. Additional information is available [HERE](#) or at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).

#### **Green Jobs Innovation Fund Grant**

*Deadline: March 29, 2011*

The U.S. DOL announced a competition to award five to eight grants of \$5-8 million each to support green industry job training programs. Eligible applicants will include national and statewide organizations with local affiliates that have existing career training programs and will benefit a minimum of six communities per grant. Additional information can be found [HERE](#).

#### **Career Pathways Innovation Fund Grants Program**

*Deadline: March 31, 2011*

The U.S. DOL recently announced the availability of up to \$122 million in grant funds to be awarded under the Career Pathways Innovation Fund (CPIF) Solicitation for Grant Applications, with at least \$65 million reserved for projects focused on the health care sector. Local Workforce Investment Boards (LWIBs), individual community and technical colleges, community college districts, and state community college systems are eligible to apply. DOL intends to fund approximately 40 to 50 grants ranging from \$1 million to

\$5 million. Additional information is available [HERE](#).

### **Environmental Justice Small Grants**

*Deadline: March 31, 2011*

The U.S. EPA is accepting grant applications for \$1.2 million to support projects to research, educate, empower, and enable communities to understand and address local health and environmental issues. Eligible applicants include non-profit community based organizations (e.g. faith groups, environmental justice groups) and tribal governments. Regional Councils may want to partner with such entities. The U.S. EPA will award 40 grants of up to \$25,000 each to support projects that address local environmental issues through partnerships, and four grants of up to \$50,000 each to gather science on the environmental and health impacts of exposure to multiple sources of pollution. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

### **Citizenship and Integration Direct Services Grant Program Deadline**

*Deadline: April 1, 2011*

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office of Citizenship will provide federal funding to nonprofits or local governments to prepare Lawful Permanent Residents for citizenship. The grants provide up to \$75,000 per year, for a total of \$150,000 per grantee to provide citizenship instruction for the civics and English portions of the naturalization test. Additional information and a full application packet is available [here](#).

### **EPA Requests Applications for National Award for Smart Growth Achievement**

*Deadline: April 6, 2011*

The U.S. EPA announced that the application period for the 10th annual National Award for Smart Growth Achievement is open. Through this award, EPA recognizes and supports communities that have successfully used smart growth principles to improve communities environmentally, socially and economically. Open to public- and private-sector entities (although all applications must include a public-sector partner), winners will be recognized in December 2011. Awards will be given in the categories of Programs, Policies and Regulations; Smart Growth and Green Building; Civic Places; and Rural Smart Growth. An "Overall Excellence" winner will be chosen from the four categories by the review panels. To view the application and complete entry guidelines, click [HERE](#).

### **Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training Program**

*Deadline: April 21, 2011*

The U.S. DOL Employment and Training Administration (ETA) announced the release of \$500 million in grant funds for the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) program. While applicants must be institutions of higher education eligible for training under the Trade Adjustment Assistance program, Regional Councils and Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) have proven to be key partners for similar work undertaken through NARC's *Pathways Out of Poverty* project, also funded by the U.S. DOL ETA. The full grant announcement is available [HERE](#), and a toolkit for potential applicants is available [HERE](#).

#### **USDA RUS Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program**

*Deadline: April 25, 2011*

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Rural Utility Service (RUS) recently announced the FY2011 Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) call for applications. DLT supports corporations or partnerships, state or local units of government, consortia and Tribes to provide telecommunications technologies that enhance learning and healthcare opportunities for rural populations through loans, grants or loan/grant combinations. Additional information on the funding opportunity is available [HERE](#).

#### **EPA Accepting Applications for Environmental Education Grant Funding**

*Deadline: May 2, 2011*

EPA is accepting [grant applications](#) for \$1.9 million in funding for the Environmental Education Grant Program to promote environmental stewardship and help develop knowledgeable and responsible students, teachers and citizens. EPA expects to award at least 20 grants nationwide ranging from a minimum of \$15,000 to a maximum of \$100,000 and will accept applications until May 2, 2011. Eligible entities include: local education agencies, state education or environmental agencies, colleges or universities, not-for-profit organizations, noncommercial educational broadcasting entities, and tribal education agencies.

EPA will be hosting two conference calls for potential applicants interested in additional information about the application process. The conference calls will take place on March 21, 2011 at 11 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) and April 6 at 2 p.m. (EDT). To participate in the conference calls, dial: 1-866-379-5082, and use conference ID number: 48699133 for the call on March 21. Use conference ID number: 48696117 for the call on April 6.

#### **USDA Community Connect Grant Program: *Deadline: May 3, 2011***

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced the availability of Community-

Oriented Connectivity Broadband Grant Program (Community Connect), for projects that (1) deploy broadband transmission service to critical community facilities, rural residents and businesses, (2) construct, acquire or expand a community center, or (3) equip and operate a community center providing free access to broadband services for communities with populations of 20,000 or fewer. Application instructions are available [here](#), and additional program information can be found [here](#).

---

## UPCOMINGEVENTS

***Financial Markets Boot Camp: An Insider's Perspective on Unique Financials Tools For Local Elected and Senior Government Officials***

**March 12, 2011, Washington, DC:** The Arizona State University School of Public Affairs is hosting the Financial Markets Boot Camp to build the financial governance capacity and economic sophistication of local and state public servants in their interaction with the private market and its stakeholders. The fee for the Boot Camp is \$75 and includes lunch. For details and registration, click [HERE](#).

***FHWA and FTA Webinar on New Guidebook on Congestion Management***

**March 23, 2011, Webinar, 1:00-2:30 pm ET:** FHWA and FTA will soon release an updated guidebook on the Congestion Management Process (CMP). *Congestion Management Process: A Guidebook* will provide practitioners with an understanding of the elements of a CMP and include practical examples of how to implement a successful process based on lessons learned from MPOs across the country. The document highlights the role of the CMP in addressing multiple objectives, including livability, accessibility, and multimodal connectivity. Companion pieces include a series of case studies focusing on several MPOs, as well as a special report on visualization techniques used in the CMP. A webinar highlighting the new resource materials will be held; register for the webinar by clicking [HERE](#). For more information, contact Egan Smith, FHWA Office of Planning at [egan.smith@dot.gov](mailto:egan.smith@dot.gov) or Michael Grant, ICF International at [mgrant@icfi.com](mailto:mgrant@icfi.com).

***24th Annual GIS-T Symposium***

**March 28-30, 2011, Hershey, PA:** For more information on this event, please click [HERE](#).

***Hannover Messe 2011: U.S. Trade and Investment Program***

**April 3-8, 2011, Hannover, Germany:** The U.S. EDA, U.S. Commercial Service (USCS), and Invest in America (IIA) have partnered to lead a U.S. Trade & Investment Program to HANNOVER MESSE 2011, the world's largest industrial technology showcase. HANNOVER MESSE 2011 is an excellent opportunity to promote your community as an attractive place to do business. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

***2011 National Brownfields Conference***

**April 3-5, 2011, Philadelphia, PA:** A partnership between the U.S. EPA and ICMA has developed the National Brownfields Conference into the premier international forum focused on redeveloping America's brownfield properties and promoting environmental revitalization and economic redevelopment. Registration is free; visit [www.brownfields2011.org](http://www.brownfields2011.org) for more details.  
*HURRY - Online registration closes on March 18.*

***APA's National Planning Conference***

**April 9-12, 2011, Boston, MA:** For more information on this event, please click [HERE](#).

***2011 Rail Conference: Moving Freight and Passengers in the 21st Century***

**April 27-29, 2011, Naperville, IL:** Sponsored by NACo, NLC and NARC, this conference will focus on the impact of freight and passenger rail on county, city, and state governments and their citizens and businesses. It will look at the movement of freight in the urban, suburban and rural communities of the U.S. and discuss who will pay to modernize and expand passenger and freight rail systems. This conference is for you if you have ever asked why the freight industry operates the way it does, had questions about economic growth and the availability and affordability of freight rail, wanted to have commuter rail in your region or wondered about the future of high-speed rail. Participants will get to meet and hear from experts in the field, including representatives of the rail industry, the U.S. Department of Transportation, the shippers who use the system, commuter rail experts, Amtrak and proponents of high-speed rail. The conference will conclude with a half-day discussion on where we go from here; how city, county, regional, and state governments can work together with the freight and passenger industry to influence federal legislation and policy; and both reduce the negative impacts from freight rail movement and improve passenger rail service in America. Click [HERE](#) to access the tentative agenda and registration information.

***National Solar Conference***

**May 17-21, 2011, Raleigh, NC:** Save the date. More information will be

released as it becomes available.

***NARC's 45th Annual Conference and Exhibition***

**June 13-15, 2011, San Diego, CA:** Join us for the the largest national event focused on promoting effective regional cooperation and solutions through interaction and education. NARC's annual conference is the premier place to learn how to engage in effective regional collaboration. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

***NLC's 19th Annual Leadership Summit***

**September 15 - 17, 2011, Minneapolis, MN:** Join renowned leadership scholars and authors Dan Buettner, Lindsay Strand, John M. Bryson, Barbara C. Crosby, and John Luthy as you engage in a unique, reflective program that will help guide your work and leadership in local government. Insightful learning experiences will provide you the opportunity to reflect, recognize and discover what you can do to enhance your success as a local leader. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

We are sending you this email primarily for your information, to meet your needs, further our valued relationship and because you requested to receive electronic newsletters from the National Association of Regional Councils. Please forward as appropriate.

[Unsubscribe](#) lindsey@narc.org from this list.

Our mailing address is:  
National Association of Regional Councils  
777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 305  
Washington, DC 20002

[Add us to your address book](#)

Copyright (C) 2011 National Association of Regional Councils All rights reserved.

[Forward](#) this email to a friend  
[Update your profile](#)