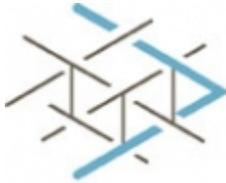


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**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS**

VOL. XII, No. 11, March 19, 2012

**eRegions**

**EXECUTIVE BRIEF**

Colleagues,

Building on the momentum of our National Conference of Regions last month, we've launched our 46th Annual Conference and Exhibition. We'll be releasing a draft agenda soon, but hope to see everyone in St. Petersburg, FL in June.

Best,  
Fred

**NARC LEADERSHIP**

**President Ron Morrison,**  
Mayor,  
National City, CA  
**Chair Mark Policinski,**  
Executive Directors  
Council  
Executive Director, Ohio-

[PROGRAM UPDATE](#) [POLICY UPDATE](#)  
[GRANT OPPORTUNITIES](#) [UPCOMING EVENTS](#)



**Registration Now Open!** Early-bird ends on March 23rd.

A draft agenda will be available soon.

Click [HERE](#) for registration, hotel and sponsorship information.

**PROGRAM UPDATE**

**Fifth Edition of EPA's Brownfields Road Map Released:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently released a new Brownfields Road Map [publication](#) and [website](#) to provide non-technical stakeholders and technical professionals with an overview of critical steps to managing a brownfields site ranging from assessment to reuse.

Kentucky-Indiana  
Regional Council of  
Governments

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To access past issues  
of *eRegions*, [visit our  
website](#).

Make NARC your  
homepage —  
[click here to learn how](#).

**Rooftop Solar Challenge:** Last week, 22 teams across the country kicked off their efforts to make solar more accessible and affordable for all Americans as part of the US Department of Energy's Rooftop Solar Challenge. The Southwest Solar Transformation Initiative (SSTI) represents the largest of the national teams and includes the San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Council, Bear River Association of Governments, Nevada Association of Counties and many other municipal partners. To learn more information about the SSTI, click [HERE](#). For information on the Rooftop Solar Challenge and other regional council participants, click [HERE](#).

**FEMA Launches New Grant Site:** The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Grant Programs Directorate (GPD) launched a new interactive site dedicated to encouraging discussions of the proposed FY13 National Preparedness Grant Program (NPGP). Through this website, GPD will be able to engage an ongoing dialogue with the stakeholder community and listen to the thoughts, concerns and ideas of state, territorial, local, and tribal governments, the private sector, non-governmental and faith-based organizations. Click [HERE](#) to access the website.

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## **POLICYUPDATE**

*Congress is in session.*

**House to Release FY13 Budget Plan:** House Republicans are expected to release their FY13 budget plan this week. It is anticipated the plan will address funding reductions required by the 2011 Budget Control Act. Starting in January 2013, \$109 billion must be reduced in spending.

**Congressman Schiff Cosponsors RIIZs:** Congressman Adam Schiff (D-CA, 29) added his name as a cosponsor to HR 3780, which would establish Regional Infrastructure Improvement Zones (RIIZs). The bill, conceptualized by NARC Member, the Ohio Kentucky Indiana Regional Council of Governments, would make a change to the tax code to allow private corporations or individuals to contribute tax deductible funds toward the construction or maintenance of public infrastructure as long as that infrastructure is a part of an approved regional (or local) plan. Click [HERE](#) for more on RIIZs.

**Senate Passes Transportation Authorization Bill:** Last week, the U.S. Senate passed S. 1813, the Moving Ahead for Progress Act in the 21st Century 74-22. In addition to the reorganization of many of the core programs and the changes to the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) program contained in the underlying legislation, several amendments important to MPOs, regional planning organizations and their local governments were approved. The amendments included in the final bill include:

- Casey-Blunt: maintains a 10% take-down for off-system bridges;
- Cardin-Cochran: strengthened MPO provisions as they related to biking and walking, and;
- Shaheen: made several changes to the redesignation process for existing MPOs below 200,000.

Click [HERE](#) for NARC's summary of S. 1813 *as passed by the Committee*. Click [HERE](#) for a copy of NARC's recent webinar presentation that detailed several of the changes. Click [HERE](#) to access NARC's press release on the Senate passage.

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) created this side by side that compares the differences between the House transportation authorization (H.R. 7) and the Senate's version (S. 1813) as passed. Click [HERE](#) to view the document. The Rural Transportation Advocacy Council (RTAC) of Arizona also released their summary of the changes to S. 1813. Click [HERE](#) to view the document.

**NARC Submits Comments On Census:** NARC submitted comments to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Subcommittee on Health Care, District of Columbia, Census, and the National Archives on the March 6th hearing, "The Pros and Cons of Making the Census Bureau's American Community Survey Voluntary". In the comments, NARC expressed concern for the potential negative impacts on MPOs, Councils of Government and their local governments of making the ACS voluntary. Click [HERE](#) for a copy of those comments.

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## GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

**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](#).

### **EPA Green Infrastructure Technical Assistance**

*Application Due: April 6, 2012*

Eligible Entities: Any combination of local government department, office, agency or non-profit. EPA's Green Infrastructure Program has announced the availability of direct assistance from EPA to facilitate the use of green infrastructure to protect water quality. Green infrastructure uses vegetation, soils, and natural processes to manage stormwater, and can decrease temperatures in the urban environment by deflecting solar radiation, providing shade, and removing heat from the air through evapotranspiration. Technical assistance will be provided through EPA contract support and can help communities with any level of green infrastructure implementation. The value of the assistance available to each of the 10 to 20 projects selected will be approximately \$50,000 to \$100,000. For more information, visit the [EPA funding notice page](#).

### **EPA to Provide \$15 Million to Help Small Drinking Water and Wastewater Systems**

*Applications Due: April 9, 2012*

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will provide up to \$15 million in funding for training and technical assistance to small drinking and wastewater systems, defined as systems that serve fewer than 10,000 people, and private well owners. Most of the funding, up to \$14.5 million, will provide training and technical assistance to small public water systems to achieve and maintain compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act and to small publicly-owned wastewater systems, communities served by on-site systems, and private well owners to improve water quality. EPA expects to make available up to \$500,000 to provide training and technical assistance to tribally-owned and operated public water systems. EPA expects to award these cooperative

agreements by Summer 2012. For more information about these competitive announcements, click [HERE](#).

### **EPA Environmental Workforce Development & Job Training Grants**

*Application Deadline: April 12, 2012*

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently released a request for proposals for its FY 2012 Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grant Application (EWDJT), which provide up to \$200,000 per award to recruit, train and place unemployed or under-employed individuals in full-time, sustainable employment in environmental assessment and cleanup positions. Regional councils, local governments and many others are eligible to apply. Additional details are available [HERE](#).

### **HUD Choice Neighborhood Grant Applications Available**

*Deadline: May 1, 2012*

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has announced the availability of Choice Neighborhood Planning Grants. The planning grants can be used to create a comprehensive neighborhood revitalization strategy to transform public or assisted housing within a distressed neighborhood. Public Housing Authorities, local governments, tribal entities, nonprofits and for-profits that apply jointly with a public entity may apply. Click [HERE](#) for more information and [HERE](#) for a direct link to the Notice of Funding Availability.

### **Roadmaps to Health Community Grants**

*Deadline: May 2, 2012*

The Roadmaps to Health Community Grants program will support communities to implement policy or system changes to address one of the social or economic factors that, as defined by the County Health Rankings, most strongly influence health outcomes in their community. Applicants must engage community members in the planning and implementation of projects, and must collaborate with organizations having expertise in improving the health of the public. Applicants must secure 100 percent matching support, including a cash match of at least 50 percent with the balance as in-kind support. Deadline: Brief proposals May 2, 2012. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

### **The Rural Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge Grant Opportunity**

*Application Deadline: May 9, 2012*

The Rural Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge is a multi-agency

effort that will give out approximately 20 awards to projects that benefit rural communities. Funds awarded can be used to support a range of projects including improving rural communities' ability to undertake or accelerate projects related to housing, community facilities, or economic and community development along with the creation of regional linkages that connect communities with innovation clusters and regional opportunities leading to job creation, expanded markets and economic growth. Nonprofits, higher education institutions, tribes and state and local governments can collaborate to apply for funding. For more information including, a link to register for a prospective applicant webinar on Tuesday, March 20, click [HERE](#). To apply or access the full grant announcement click [HERE](#).

### **Community Forest and Open Space Program**

*Application Deadline: May 15, 2012*

The Community Forest and Open Space Program has issued a request for applications to provide funding to local governments, Tribal governments, and qualified nonprofit entities to establish community forests that provide continuing and accessible community benefits. Total CFP funding is \$3.15 million and individual grant applications may not exceed \$400,000. For more information, click [HERE](#).

### **Climate Change and Health: Assessing and Modeling Population Vulnerability to Climate Change**

*Application Deadline: May 24, 2012*

This Funding Opportunity Announcement is being issued by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) with participation from the following NIH components: FIC, NCI, NCMHD NHLBI, NIA, NIBIB, NICHD, NLM and OBSSR. It encourages research applications to examine the differential risk factors of populations that lead to or are associated with increased vulnerability to exposures, diseases and other adverse health outcomes related to climate change. Applications may involve either applied research studies that address specific hypotheses about risk factors or population characteristics associated with increased vulnerability, or research projects to develop general models or methods for identifying and characterizing population vulnerability to climate change. The ultimate goal of this research program is to help inform climate change adaptation and public health interventions to reduce current and future vulnerability of various populations to the health effects of climate change. Applications are anticipated to involve a multidisciplinary research team, including experts in health sciences and climatology as

well as geography, modeling, statistics, demography, and social and behavioral sciences as appropriate. In addition, partnerships with community-based or advocacy organizations, public health officials, urban planners and others are encouraged. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

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## UPCOMINGEVENTS

### ***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. 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 is available on the conference website, available by clicking [HERE](#).

### ***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 an agenda will be available in mid 2012.

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