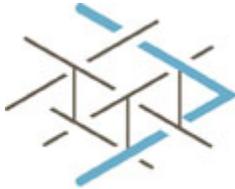


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## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XI, No. 12, March 28, 2011

# eRegions

### **NARCLEADERSHIP**

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

[PARTNERUPDATE](#)

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



### **EXECUTIVEBRIEF**

Colleagues,

Last week, Erika Young presented before the Ohio Association of Regional Councils meeting on the progress of federal surface transportation authorization and the potential for the passage of a multi-year

## **Register Today!**

**Early Bird Registration Ends on Thursday.**

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 access the current draft agenda. Contact Lindsey Riley at [lindsey@narc.org](mailto:lindsey@narc.org) or 202.986.1032 x220 for more information. *If you are making travel arrangements, we recommend traveling on Sunday, June 12th and Thursday, June 16th.*

authorization. If your region has questions about transportation reauthorization, let us know.

Early-bird registration for our 45th Annual Conference and Exhibition ends on Thursday! A draft agenda was released last week and is accessible via the conference website. If you haven't registered, please do so today!

Best,  
Fred

#### **NARCSTAFF**

##### **Fred Abousleman**

Executive Director

##### **Shannon Baxevanis**

Deputy Director

##### **Sylvia Bryant**

Office Manager

##### **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](#).

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## **PROGRAMUPDATE**

**Transportation Committee Webinar:** NARC's next Transportation Committee webinar is scheduled for April 12, 2011, 12:00-2:00 pm ET. This webinar will be hosted by NARC's Goods Movement Subcommittee and will address *Goods Movement along the U.S. Border: An Update of Current Trends*. This webinar will address developments with border freight, how changes will affect the flow of goods nationally and what metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) and localities are doing to prepare. Click [HERE](#) to register.

**HUD Hosts Call on Choice Neighborhoods Program:** The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has invited NARC's membership to join a conference call on Wednesday, March 30<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-5:00 pm ET for a briefing on Choice Neighborhoods with Deputy Secretary Sims and senior HUD staff. Choice Neighborhoods is a central element of the Administration's inter-agency's Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative. HUD made funding award announcements for Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants on Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. Please RSVP to [Jennifer.L.Szubrowski@Hud.gov](mailto:Jennifer.L.Szubrowski@Hud.gov) and use Participant Dial-in: (888) 548-6716 and Conference ID Number: 546-787-78.

**EPA Accepting Comment on Stormwater TMDL:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is soliciting comments on a [memo](#) released on November 12, 2010 in response to stakeholder concern that input was not obtained prior to establishing Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Wasteload Allocations (WLAs) for stormwater sources and NPDES permit requirements based on those WLAs. EPA is accepting comments through May 16, 2011 in order to make a decision by August 15, 2011 to either retain the memorandum without change, to reissue it with revisions, or to withdraw it. Please share with NARC any comments you submit.

**White House Requesting Projects that Improve NEPA:** The White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is accepting nominations from the public and federal agencies for projects that will increase the efficiency of environmental reviews conducted under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The top projects will have the chance to be replicated across the government and become part of new or revised NEPA procedures. A panel of NEPA experts from various federal agencies will select up to five

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nominees, and those projects will have their progress tracked and publicized as they are implemented in CEQ's pilot program. Nominations will be accepted [HERE](#) until June 15, 2011.

**Opportunity to Comment on EDA Regulations:** 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 April 11, 2011. Please share any submitted comments with Jenee Kresge, [jenee@narc.org](mailto:jenee@narc.org).

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## POLICYUPDATE

*The House and Senate are out of session.*

**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).

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## PARTNERUPDATE

**NACo's 2011 Rail Conference:** April 27-29, 2011. Sponsored by the National Association of Counties (NACo), National League of Cities (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.

**NEI Update:** The Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) has developed a webpage with news and information following the earthquake in Japan. Click [HERE](#) to access this webpage. NEI has made themselves available to anyone who has questions; contact Christine Czimedia or Marshall Cohen at 202.739.8000 or [NEIResponseCenter@nei.org](mailto:NEIResponseCenter@nei.org).

**NLC Column:** NLC released it's latest *Emerging Issues* column, "Big Think

Books See Big Roles for Cities in Blig Global Changes." Click [HERE](#) to read the column.

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## GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

### **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. Department of Labor (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](#).

### **EDA Announces i6 Green Challenge Competition**

*Letter of Intent Due: May 2, 2011*

The i6 Green Challenge Competition provides \$12 million in funding focused on the nexus between economic development and environmental quality. At least six applicants will be selected for up to \$1 million for a two-year project, with the potential for supplemental awards from several participating federal agencies. Economic Development Districts, Tribes, nonprofits, state and local governments are all qualified applicants. Additional information on the competition is available at [www.eda.gov/i6](http://www.eda.gov/i6).

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

*Deadline: May 2, 2011*

The U.S. 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 11:00 am ET and April 6 at 2:00 pm ET. 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 (USDA) 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](#).

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## UPCOMINGEVENTS

### ***HUD Hosts Call on Choice Neighborhoods Program***

**March 30, 2011, 4:00-5:00 pm ET**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has invited NARC's membership to join a conference call on Wednesday, March 30th from 4:00-5:00 pm ET for a briefing on Choice Neighborhoods with Deputy Secretary Sims and senior HUD staff. Choice Neighborhoods is a central element of the Administration's inter-agency's Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative. HUD made funding award announcements for Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants on Friday, March 18th. Please RSVP to [Jennifer.L.Szubrowski@Hud.gov](mailto:Jennifer.L.Szubrowski@Hud.gov) and use Participant Dial-in: (888) 548-6716 and Conference ID Number: 546-787-78.

### ***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](#).

### ***Transportation Committee Webinar***

**April 12, 2011, 12:00-2:00 pm ET:** NARC's next Transportation Committee webinar is scheduled. This webinar will be hosted by NARC's Goods Movement Subcommittee and will address *Goods Movement along the U.S.*

*Border: An Update of Current Trends.* This webinar will address developments with border freight, how changes will affect the flow of goods nationally and what metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) and localities are doing to prepare. Click [HERE](#) to register.

***GPS 101 Webinar***

**April 12, 2011, 3:00-4:00 pm ET:** Global Positioning Systems (GPS) technology is performing better than ever and will continue to improve. Led by the Senior Policy Advisory for the Department of Interior and U.S. Geological Services, this webinar will provide an update on the GPS constellation, modernization plans and national policy. You'll learn about new improvements and how your region can take advantage of this technology. Click [HERE](#) to register; NARC members can attend at no cost.

***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.

***Transforming Local Government Conference***

**June 1-3, 2011, Clearwater, FL:** Making Magic: How BOLD Can Local Government Be? The Alliance for Innovation's Transforming Local

Government (TLG) Conference is different from any other conference you'll attend. At TLG, you'll learn about some of the most innovative programs in the country directly from the teams that created them. This year, TLG takes place in conjunction with the Florida City/County Management Association Annual Conference. The joint event will attract participation from local governments that seek new and innovative ways to connect people, information, and ideas to become some of the best places to live, grow, work, play, and prosper. Recognized for its dynamic content, the TLG format encourages team building and free thinking and fosters the generation of unprecedented ideas, all within a relaxed and professional networking and learning environment. Visit the conference website by clicking [HERE](#); a full program, registration and hotel information is 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.

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