



NARCLEADERSHIP

President Stephen Cassano,
Selectman,
Town of Manchester, CT
Chair Anthony Reams,
Executive Directors Council
President, Toledo Metropolitan
Area Council of Governments

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

I visited with the Florida MPO Association this week and secured their support for our Regional Infrastructure Improvement Zones (RIIZs) proposal as well as shared an update on D.C. activity. Along with endorsement from the Florida RPC's we now have extensive support across the country, but still need more. Please endorse the proposal so we can assure passage in this Congress. For additional information, contact me, fred@NARC.org, or Shannon Menard, shannon@NARC.org.

The deadline for the 2010 NARC Leadership and General Achievement Awards is fast approaching! NARC needs your submissions -- please get them to us as soon as possible.

The [Board of Director](#) and [Executive Directors Council](#) election information has also been released. If you plan to send a letter of endorsement, please do so as soon as possible.

Thank you again for your continued hard work and support.

Best,
Fred

NARCSTAFF

[Fred Abousleman](#)
Executive Director, x216

[Sylvia Bryant](#)

NARC 44th Annual Conference and Exhibition
Cleveland, OH
June 15-17, 2010



The **National Association of Regional Councils** and the **Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency** will host the 44th Annual Conference and Exhibition. *We are working with the conference hotel to release additional rooms as soon as possible. If you are having difficulty reserving hotel rooms, please contact Lindsey Riley at lindsey@narc.org or 202.986.1032 x220.*

AICP Credits

We are currently applying for CM credits. Stay tuned for more information.

[Board of Directors](#) and [Executive Directors Council](#) Election Information

[Draft Conference Agenda](#)

Updated March 29, 2010

[NARC 2010 NARC Achievement and Leadership Award Information:](#)

The deadline to submit a nomination is April 15, 2010!

Click [HERE](#) to access the conference website and registration information.

NARC PROGRAM

LAST CHANCE TO PROVIDE INPUT: Is your regional council planning for your regional food network? If you have or are developing a program that involves planning for your region's food production and supply, please complete the short survey found [HERE](#). NARC supports our members in their regional food network planning and implementation programs and we need your assistance in surveying the programs that currently exist across the country, in order to better represent our members' needs for support in this area. For more information on NARC's work in regional food network planning, or with any questions about the [survey](#), please contact Jenee Kresge at jenee@NARC.org or 202.986.1032 x215.

White House to Host Conference on America's Great Outdoors: The White House will host a Conference on America's Great Outdoors on Friday, April 16, 2010. Nancy Sutley, Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Interior, and Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture will lead the conference, which will address the challenges, opportunities and innovations surrounding modern-day land conservation and the importance of reconnecting Americans and American families to the outdoors. This conference will bring together leaders from communities across the country that are working to protect their outdoor spaces. The discussion will center on the conservation opportunities in communities, the challenges facing them, and the innovative

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protect their outdoor spaces. The discussion will center on the conservation opportunities in communities, the challenges facing them, and the innovative solutions they are crafting from the bottom up. There will also be time to learn from past and ongoing efforts, communicate how the Federal Government can support these efforts, identify new opportunities to work together to modernize our approach to conservation, and reinvigorate the national conversation about our outdoors.

EPA Announces Phase-in of Clean Air Act Permitting for Greenhouse Gases:

This week, under a final decision, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that stationary sources will not be required to get Clean Air Act permits that cover greenhouse gases (GHGs) before January 2011. This is in an effort by EPA to provide time for large industrial facilities and state governments to put in place cost-effective, innovative technologies to control and reduce carbon pollution. This action was the final step in EPA's reconsideration of the December 18, 2008 memorandum entitled "EPA's Interpretation of Regulations that Determine Pollutants Covered by Federal Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) Permit Program." The final action clarifies when GHGs and other pollutants are covered under Clean Air Act permitting programs. More information and the letter Administrator Jackson sent last month outlining this approach and timeline can be found by clicking [HERE](#).

Send EPA Recommendations on Protecting America's Waters: EPA is seeking feedback on how the Agency can better protect and improve the health of our waters. Visit EPA's [Web discussion forum](#) to submit your recommendations on how the nation can better manage water quality issues — from planning, scientific tools, low impact development, to green infrastructure, resource allocation and beyond — to control water pollution.

Send BLS Your Thoughts on a Green Jobs Definition: The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is requesting public comments on its proposed definition of green jobs. This definition, which includes seven green economic activity categories and four categories for green jobs and services, will be used to measure green jobs activity in the economy. The definition and information on how to provide commentary to BLS can be found by clicking [HERE](#). Comments are due by April 30, 2010.

NARCPOLICY

Congress is in recess from March 29 through April 9, 2010.

Support Livable Communities: Both the House (HR 4690) and Senate (S1619) have bills supporting the regional role in building livable communities with their local governments. The legislation seeks to reinvigorate regional comprehensive planning and implementation for regions of all sizes and make ups. We urge all regional planning organizations and their boards of local elected officials to send letters of support to your Congressional delegation urging their endorsement by showcasing the on-the-ground benefits of this legislation for your region. Click [HERE](#) for a summary of the bills. Click [HERE](#) to access a letter for your region to personalize. For more information or assistance with an endorsement, please contact Shannon Menard at shannon@NARC.org or 202.986.1032, x217.

MEMBER360⁰

Commissioner Dave Danielson Participates in White House Conference: Dave Danielson, Commissioner, Bedford NH; Director, NARC Board of Directors; and Director, Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission Board of Directors, recently participated in a White House conference held to discuss the proposed Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant. Commissioner Danielson, representing NARC, was one of six speakers to address the grant proposed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Additional information is available by clicking [HERE](#).

PARTNERUPDATES

The APCO Institute Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) Program. Comprehensive. Customized.

Cost-Effective: The public expects 9-1-1 telecommunicators to be prepared for the unexpected. **Are yours?** Give your staff the essential tool for effective response to critical situations—The [APCO Institute](#)

[Emergency Medical Dispatch Program](#). With in person and online training opportunities, your personnel will be certified to present the EMD course within your agency and begin using customized EMD

Guidecards and/or APCO's customized software program. Click [HERE](#) to learn more. at: For questions, contact: APCO Institute at institute@apco911.org or call (888) 272-6911





GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

DOL Announces Funding Opportunities

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) announced the availability of the following funding opportunities:

Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Grants – Deadline: April 12, 2010: DOL announced the availability of approximately \$67 million (\$53 million for Comprehensive Services and \$14 million for Supplemental Youth Services) in grant funds authorized by Section 166 of WIA to serve the employment and training needs of Indian and Native American adults and youth through competitive two-year grant awards with Indian tribes, tribal organizations, Alaska Native entities, and Indian-controlled organizations serving Indians or Native Hawaiian organizations. Click [HERE](#) for the full grant announcement.

ARRA Trade Adjustment Assistance Grants – Deadline: April 14, 2010: DOL announced the availability of \$1.2 million of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding for Trade Adjustment Assistance Technical Assistance and Outreach Partnership Grants to provide training or technical assistance and outreach to dislocated workers impacted by foreign trade. Competitive grants will fund one to three proposed projects that are required to be developed and implemented through strategic partnerships. Click [HERE](#) for the full grant announcement.

Training Veterans in Green Jobs Grants – Deadline: April 26, 2010: DOL's Veterans' Employment and Training Service announced a \$2 million grant competition under the Veterans' Workforce Investment Program (VWIP) to assist eligible veterans by providing employment, training, support services, credentialing and networking information in renewable and sustainable energy. DOL will give priority to workforce development projects that focus on connecting target populations to career pathways and training programs that will prepare veterans for careers in any of the seven energy efficiency and renewable energy industry categories defined in the Workforce Investment Act, which include:

- Energy-efficient building, construction and retrofit industries.
- Renewable electric power industry.
- Energy efficient and advanced drive train vehicle industry.
- Bio-fuels industry.
- Deconstruction and materials use industries.
- Energy efficiency assessment industry serving the residential, commercial or industrial sectors.
- Manufacturers that produce sustainable products using environmentally sustainable processes and materials.

Applicants may propose strategies that focus on employment and training opportunities related to the growth and enhancement of emerging green industries that clean and enhance our environment. For more information on this solicitation, visit <http://www.grants.gov/> and <http://www.dol.gov/vets>.

Training Homeless Veterans for Workforce Reintegration – Deadline April 26, 2010: DOL's Veterans' Employment and Training Service announced a \$8.3 million grant competition to provide job training, counseling and placement services (including job readiness, and literacy and skills training) to expedite the reintegration of homeless veterans into the labor force through its Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP). HVRP grants are intended to provide services to assist in reintegrating homeless veterans into meaningful employment within the labor force and to stimulate the development of effective service delivery systems that will address the complex problems facing homeless veterans. Applicants should design programs that help eligible veterans by providing job placement services, job training, counseling, supportive services and other assistance to expedite the reintegration of homeless individuals into the labor force. Successful programs also will be flexible in addressing universal as well as local or regional problems that have had a negative impact on homeless veterans re-entering the workforce. For more information on this solicitation, visit <http://www.grants.gov/> and <http://www.dol.gov/vets>.

Community-Based Job Training Grants – Deadline: April 29, 2010: DOL's Employment and Training Administration (ETA), announced the availability of approximately \$125 million in grant funds for Community-Based Job Training Grants (CBJTGs). These grants will be awarded through a competitive process to support workforce training for high-growth/high-demand industries through the national system of community, technical, and tribal colleges. It is anticipated that awards will range generally from \$1 million to \$3 million. ETA expects to allot up to \$50 million of the total designated funds to organizations that have never received a grant through a CBJTG SGA. Click [HERE](#) for the full grant announcement.

EPA Accepting Applications for National Award for Smart Growth Achievement and for Smart Growth Implementation

Assistance: Deadline: April 5, 2010: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is now accepting applications for the 2010 National Award for Smart Growth Achievement. This competition is open to public- and private-sector entities that have

Assistance: April 5, 2010: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is now accepting applications for the 2010 National Award for Smart Growth Achievement. This competition is open to public- and private-sector entities that have successfully used smart growth principles to improve communities environmentally, socially and economically. For more information about the award program and how to apply, click [HERE](#).

EPA Accepting Letters of Interest for the 2010 Round of the Smart Growth Implementation Assistance Program. *Deadline: April 9, 2010.* EPA, with the assistance of HUD and DOT, is offering direct technical assistance from national experts to communities, tribes, regions, and states that want to incorporate smart growth techniques in their development. EPA is also interested in identifying and documenting innovative solutions to complex problems faced by communities as they seek to incorporate smart growth practices. Letters of interest are due by 3:00 pm April 9, 2010. EPA expects to select up to four applicants for assistance this year. For more information about the 2010 application process, click [HERE](#).

EDA Announces Available Grant Funding: *Deadline: April 20, 2010.* EDA's Community Trade Adjustment Assistance (Community TAA) Program, which was created by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), is aimed at helping to create and retain jobs by providing project grants to communities that have experienced, or are threatened by, job loss resulting from international trade impacts. A total of \$37 million is available for grants to support a wide range of technical, planning, and infrastructure projects to help communities adapt to pressing trade impact issues and diversify their economies. Click [HERE](#) for more information on the program.

USDA Seeks Project Proposals to Improve Water Quality in Mississippi River Basin: *Deadline: May 1, 2010.* U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is seeking project proposals that will improve water quality and the overall health of the Mississippi River in 41 eligible watersheds in 12 states. The [Request for Proposals](#) (RFP) for the [Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative](#), through which up to \$75 million will be available for partnership projects, was published in the [March 2 Federal Register](#). The RFP explains the procedures for potential partners to sign agreements with USDA for projects that meet with the initiative's objectives. USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service will administer this initiative, first announced on September 24, 2009. Forty-one eligible watersheds or focus areas in the following 12 states—Arkansas, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee and Wisconsin—were selected to participate in this initiative. Smaller watersheds within the initial 41 will be selected for approved partnership projects based on their potential for managing nitrogen and phosphorus—nutrients associated with impaired water quality in the Mississippi River Basin—while maintaining agricultural productivity and benefiting wildlife. Individual producers can only participate in this initiative in approved partnership projects. USDA will use a competitive process to distribute up to \$75 million using two conservation programs in fiscal year 2010, the initiative's first year. Up to \$50 million will come from the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative ([CCPI](#)) and an additional \$25 million from the Wetlands Reserve Enhancement Program ([WREP](#)). USDA expects to provide about \$320 million in financial assistance over four years for voluntary conservation projects in these watersheds.

Energy Efficient Building Systems Regional Innovation Cluster Initiative: *Deadline: May 6, 2010.* The Obama Administration today announced a multi-agency initiative to spur regional economic growth while making buildings more energy efficient. Seven federal agencies issued a combined Funding Opportunity Announcement of up to \$129.7 million over five years to create a regional research center that will develop new building efficiency technologies and work with local partners to implement the technologies in area buildings. Additional details and a link to the announcement are available by clicking [HERE](#).

UPCOMINGEVENTS

April 6, Webinar, 1:00-2:00pm ET: The International Municipal Lawyers Association (IMLA), www.imla.org, will host a webinar titled *Religious Use of Land. Looking for Divine Guidance... and a Little Law?* Does your local megachurch want to double in size from its present nonconforming bulk? Is a neighborhood synagogue seeking planning approval for a non-sectarian day school? Are church elders asking your legislative body to enact a distancing requirement for bars, subject to the waiver of individual churches? Is there a proposal pending for a Buddhist temple in the "Log Cabin Settler District" of your Rocky Mountain village? If you're facing the balancing act between ministry and municipal needs, and need guidance, tune in for this session – you'll get the straight talk on what works, and what is certain to get you into trouble! Click [HERE](#) for more information. IMLA has offered NARC members the opportunity to participate at IMLA member pricing.

April 7, Webinar, 3:00-4:15pm ET: The IMLA and Public Technology Institute will host a webinar, *Web 2.0/Social Networking and Public Employer/Employee Relationship* (part III of a four-part series). This in-depth Session will focus on the internal legal and policy issues between a public entity and its employees when dealing with social networking and other similar technologies. Some of the issues to be discussed include: Employees that use city/county equipment and city/county email address to connect to a social networking site or to develop a site; Open meetings laws and the scenario when two elected officials (such as city council members); communicating with each other on social networking sites; Monitoring social media, content; Using social networking to improve office efficiency; Use of government-issued equipment at home (ex. Government provided cell phone).

social networking to improve office efficiency; Use of government-issued equipment at home (ex. Government provided cell phone or laptop); Background checks, including social-networking/Web-2.0 activity; Open records laws and records retention. Click [HERE](#) for more information. IMLA has offered NARC members the opportunity to participate at IMLA member pricing.

April 7, Webinar, 3:00-4:00pm ET: C2ER will host a free webinar on a web-based statistical research tool provided by Data-Planet™. This tool can provide Economic Development professionals with up-to-date federal government and commercial statistical data to compare, analyze trends, and create your output in charts, graphs and maps. Click [HERE](#) to access the webinar.

April 8, Webinar, 1:00-2:00pm ET: The IMLA will host a webinar titled *Electronic Communications for Clients/Adversaries*. Computers, cell phones and other means of electronic communications have revolutionized the way that business is conducted. The use of these forms of communication may create concerns in an array of areas such as; recordkeeping and duties regarding electronically stored information, public information / right-to-know laws, security, and ethical breaches. This call will examine selected forms of electronic communication that involve risks for municipal lawyers and their clients and suggest ways to minimize such risks. Click [HERE](#) for more information. IMLA has offered NARC members the opportunity to participate at IMLA member pricing.

April 8, Webconference, 1:00-2:30pm ET: The International City/County Management Association (ICMA) will host a webconference titled *Let's Talk: Getting Citizens Involved in Tough Budget Choices*. This webconference will discuss how you can successfully involve citizens in making budget decisions, especially on really tough choices on service delivery. Discover how Washoe County, Nevada, launched two citizen-involved processes around budgeting—one to establish criteria that were used to prioritize services, and one to establish budget policies. Additional details are available [HERE](#) and registration information is available by clicking [HERE](#). ICMA has offered NARC members the opportunity to participate at ICMA member pricing.

April 13, Webinar, 12:00-2:00pm ET: NARC's Safety Subcommittee is hosting the Transportation Committee's next monthly webinar on "Promoting Livability through Better Safety Planning". This webinar will address strategies that metropolitan planning organizations and councils of governments can use to better incorporate safety into their transportation plans. Speakers are to be announced; register for this exciting event by clicking [HERE](#).

April 15, Webcast, 2:00-3:00pm ET: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will host a webcast: *K-12 Benchmarking 101*. This webcast will teach attendees the basics of benchmarking K-12 buildings using EPA's Portfolio Manager tool. Portfolio Manager can help measure and track energy and water use across an entire portfolio of buildings. Buildings can earn an energy performance rating compared with peer facilities across the country, and top-performing buildings are eligible for national recognition. Click [HERE](#) to register.

April 28-29, Pittsburgh, PA: The Development District of Appalachia and the National Association of Development Organizations will host the 2010 DDAA GIS Conference. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

April 29, 2010, Webinar, 1:00pm ET – Save the Date: NARC has just scheduled a *Learning Series* webinar on Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) web applications on Thursday, April 29, 2010 at 1pm EDT. The webinar will feature speakers from the Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District's GIS department who will explain how to translate your regional and local GIS data into user-friendly web applications and why doing this is important for your regional council. Stay tuned – more details and a registration link will be coming soon!

May 26-27, Washington, DC: The Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors will hold their 2010 Annual Meeting. Registration is free and open to non-members, but you must RSVP to Adrienne Gildea at agildea@blakey-agnew.com.

June 15-17, Cleveland, OH: NARC and the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency will host the 44th Annual Conference and Exhibition. Full conference details will be available on the conference website, available by clicking [HERE](#).

BUILDING REGIONAL COMMUNITIES – LARGE, SMALL, URBAN AND RURAL – THROUGH ADVOCACY, EDUCATION AND TRAINING

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