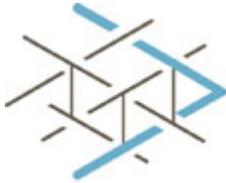


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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XII, No. 13, April 2, 2012

eRegions

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Dear Colleagues,

Longtime regional supporter, Board member of the Piedmont Triad Regional Council of Governments, Clemmons County, NC Councilmember and former NARC Board member, the Hon. Chris Jones passed away earlier today. He was an avid proponent of regionalism in North Carolina and nationwide, as well as a strong ally for NARC. His enthusiasm and support will be missed.

A memorial service will be held Wednesday at 10 am at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Winston-Salem, NC.

[PROGRAM UPDATE](#) [POLICY UPDATE](#)

[REGIONS 360](#)

[GRANT OPPORTUNITIES](#) [UPCOMING EVENTS](#)



[Registration Open.](#)

A draft agenda is available [HERE](#).

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

PROGRAM UPDATE

NARC Transportation Webinar: NARC will hold its next Transportation Safety Subcommittee webinar on Tuesday, April 10, 2012 from 12:00-2:00pm ET. This webinar will showcase the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Office of Safety's recent [Guidance Memorandum on Promoting the Implementation of Proven Safety Countermeasures](#). This webinar will discuss the nine safety

Additional information can be found [HERE](#).

We are keeping Councilmember Jones' family in our thoughts and prayers through this difficult time.

Fred

NARC LEADERSHIP

President Ron Morrison,

Mayor,

National City, CA

Chair Mark Policinski,

Executive Directors

Council

Executive Director, Ohio-

Kentucky-Indiana

Regional Council of

Governments

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Economic and

Community Development

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Communications

Erika Young

Transportation Director

countermeasures highlighted by FHWA, as well as highlight regional examples where these countermeasures are being used. Full agenda is forthcoming. Click [HERE](#) for more information on the FHWA Office of Safety's safety countermeasures program. Click [HERE](#) for the agenda and [HERE](#) to register for this FREE webinar.

U.S. EPA Request for Feedback: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released the first year of data collected under the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reporting Program in January 2012 and is interested in knowing if any states, regions or localities that are using the data to prepare or improve GHG inventories, develop GHG policies, identifying business opportunities, such as future landfill-to-gas energy project sites, or other uses. The U.S. EPA would like to feature state, regional and local actions in an upcoming article. If you are aware of any activity in this area, please contact Katherine Sibold at sibold.katherine@epa.gov or 202-343-9280. For more information on EPA's Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program Data visit their website by clicking [HERE](#).

POLICY UPDATE

Congress is in recess until April 16.

Federal Budget Update: Late last week, without any Democratic votes, the House passed Resolution 112, which established a \$1.028 trillion FY13 budget resolution (\$19 billion below the amount required by the 2011 Budget Control Act) and set forth the budgetary levels for FY14 through FY22. The resolution included requirements of the House Appropriations Committees to find \$261 billion in savings that would forestall potential automatic cuts in discretionary spending set to occur in January 2013. The House Committees (listed below) are required to report legislation indicating savings by April 27.

The House Budget Resolution required the following savings, based on Committee:

- Agriculture: \$8.2B for FY13; \$33.2B through FY22
- Energy & Commerce: \$3.75B for FY13; \$96.8B through FY22
- Financial Services: \$3B for FY13; \$29.8B through FY22
- Judiciary: \$100M for FY13; \$39.7B through FY22
- Oversight & Government Reform: \$2.2B for FY13; \$79.8B

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through FY22

- Ways and Means: \$1.2B for FY13; \$53B through FY22

Some important areas for regions to note from the House Budget Resolution:

- Community & Regional Development: Programs within this area, such as Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), USDA rural development programs, some FEMA funding, etc., are slated for a 41% reduction for FY13 with additional decreases in FY14. The budget also calls for eliminating “non-core” federal programs such as CDBG.
- Job Training: It is recommended to consolidate the 49 different job training programs administered across nine federal agencies into a targeted “career scholarship program.”
- Transportation: Programs within this area are slated for a 11% decrease in FY13 with recommendations to eliminate funding for high speed rail and New Starts and Small Starts programs, and reduce Amtrak funding. It also includes the proposal to move new revenues from domestic oil and gas development into the Highway Trust Fund.

According to leaders in both the House and Senate, they anticipate beginning the appropriations process with bill markups following the April recess. It is unlikely that Congress will be able to finish all 12 of the appropriations bills before the start of the new fiscal year on October 1, 2012.

Federal Transportation Reauthorization Update: On Friday, March 30, 2012, the President signed into law, H.R. 4281, legislation extending the current federal surface transportation authorization, SAFETEA-LU, for another three months. Absent Congressional action on a longer-term reauthorization, the programs are now set to expire on June 30, 2012. Click [HERE](#) for talking points released this morning by NARC on this issue.

REGIONS360

Request for Qualifications (RFQ) from Broward MPO: Deadline 4:00 PM, April 13, 2012; The Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is seeking qualified consultants to conduct a Livability/Congestion

Management Planning Study to implement the Premium Transit and Mobility Hub concept of the Broward MPO's 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan. Potential applicants should be able to provide the services as outlined in the RFQ announcement, available by clicking [HERE](#).

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

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.

USDA Rural Community Development Initiative Grant Opportunity

Application Deadline May 9, 2012

USDA Rural Development will award up to \$8.6 million in grants that help rural businesses create jobs and spur economic development. Local governments, tribes, and public and private non-profit intermediary organizations that provide financial and technical assistance to multiple recipients are eligible to apply for grants that would benefit a recipient located in a low-income rural area. The intermediary must provide

matching funds greater than or equal to the award. Proposals should consist of projects that provide technical assistance and capacity building to local organizations to complete housing, economic development and community facilities projects. For more information on the opportunity, see the [March 21 Federal Register](#). To apply, click [HERE](#).

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.

EDA FY 2012 Disaster Relief Opportunity

Application Deadline: Rolling

The FY 2012 Disaster Relief Opportunity awards investments in regions experiencing severe economic stress as a result of natural disasters that were declared as major Federal disasters between October 1, 2010 and September 30, 2011. Applications should be based on long-term, regionally oriented and collaborative economic development or redevelopment strategies that incorporate principles for enhancing the resiliency of the relevant region. In addition, applicants must demonstrate a clear nexus between their proposed project scope of work and disaster recovery and resiliency efforts. Applicants must come from counties that had a Presidential declaration of a major disaster. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis and processed as received. Click [HERE](#) to access the full announcement.

UPCOMINGEVENTS

Department of Labor Workforce3One Webinar: What You Need to Know About the Summer Jobs + Initiative

April 4, 2012, 2:00 pm ET: Evan Rosenberg from the Division of Youth Services, Employment and Training Administration and David Roberts from the Office of Public Administration, U.S. Department of Labor will provide information about the White House's Summer Jobs + Initiative, a

new call-to-action for businesses, non-profits, and government to provide pathways to employment for low-income and disconnected youth in the summer. Presenters will discuss the goals of the initiative, what roles the workforce system can play and how to access and use the newly created Summer Jobs + Jobs Bank. Click [HERE](#) to register.

FHWA Scenario Planning Webinar

April 5, 2012, 1:30 pm ET: Interested in scenario planning? The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is hosting a webinar entitled, "New Tools in Scenario Planning: Denver Region's Metro Vision 2040 Update." This webinar will highlight the efforts of the Denver Regional Councils of Government (DRCOG) to use scenario planning in their plan update, as well as host a roundtable of experts to discuss DRCOG's use of scenario planning tools. Click [HERE](#) to register. Click [HERE](#) for DRCOG's Metro Vision webpage.

NARC Transportation Safety Subcommittee Webinar

April 10, 2012, 12:00 pm ET: NARC's next Transportation Committee webinar will showcase the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Office of Safety's recent [Guidance Memorandum on Promoting the Implementation of Proven Safety Countermeasures](#). This webinar will discuss the nine safety countermeasures highlighted by FHWA, as well as highlight regional examples where these countermeasures are being used. Full agenda is forthcoming. Click [HERE](#) for more information on the FHWA Office of Safety's safety countermeasures program. Click [HERE](#) to register for this FREE webinar.

Planning for Growth & Open Space Conservation Webinar Series

April 12, 2012, 2:00pm ET: Join the U.S. Forest Service in exploring how planners, natural resource managers, private land owners and others can plan for growth as well as open space conservation. Key note speakers Marisue Hillard and Ron Archuleta will discuss firsthand experiences with managing national forests impacted by housing growth, strategies used to conserve open space, and lessons learned. Further information will be made available on the Forest Service's website [HERE](#). Dial-in information: (800) 260-0718; Participant Code: 243051; Webinar Link: [HERE](#).

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.

Tree Risk Assessment Workshop

May 1-2, 2012, Elkins, WV: The U.S. Forest Service is hosting a workshop to introduce and teach participants how to use tree risk management tools and resources developed by the U.S. Forest Service, State and Private Forestry and Forest Health Protection in an effort to better integrate tree risk assessment into forest management. For more information, click [HERE](#).

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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