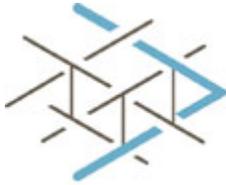


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**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS**

VOL. XII, No. 14, April 9, 2012

**eRegions**

### **EXECUTIVE BRIEF**

Dear Colleagues,

In 1984, Ann Bowman and James Franke wrote about the fiscal hardship facing Regional Councils in a paper titled, *The Decline of Substate Regionalism*. They attributed the decline primarily to "...government retrenching..." and cutbacks in Federal spending. The article discusses successful approaches to weathering such a storm and the characteristics for organizational survival. We are re-releasing the article with Professor Bowman's good will (she is now at Texas A&M University) to provide insight into the long history we have of

**[PROGRAM UPDATE](#) [POLICY UPDATE](#)  
[REGIONS 360](#) [PARTNER UPDATE](#)  
[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 tomorrow, 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 countermeasures highlighted by FHWA, as well as highlight regional

overcoming adversity and how much of what we learned before we can use today. Click [HERE](#) to access the article.

Fred

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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.

**GAO Reports on State and Local Governments' Fiscal Outlook:** Last week, GAO released a report on state and local government fiscal challenges for the near and long-term. The report highlights an improvement in the outlook over the last year due to an increase in tax receipts between 2009 and 2011, and also identifies growing long-term challenges that are expected to grow. View the report summary [HERE](#) or access the full report in a PDF [HERE](#).

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## **POLICY**UPDATE

*Congress is in recess until April 16.*

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## **REGIONS**360

**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](#).

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## **PARTNER**UPDATE

**“Jeremiads on Class and the Nation’s Future: Inequality II” by Bill Barnes.** Charles Murray and Thomas Edsall have each written a new book. They both say that the nation is sharply, deeply and dangerously divided by class. The adjective “apocalyptic” comes to mind. Their views reveal a radical and thought-provoking disagreement about the very nature of the problems the nation faces. Click [HERE](#) to access this latest issue of the National League of Cities' *Emerging Issues* column by Bill Barnes.

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## GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

### **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 Funding Available for Local Food and Farmers Market Promotion**

*Deadline: May 9, 2012*

Funding to improve marketing for domestic farmers' markets and other

local/regional food programs is available through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP). In FY12, has approximately \$10 million in funding, with a \$100,000 ceiling for each award to an eligible local government, nonprofit or other organization. Additional information on the funding opportunity is available [HERE](#).

#### **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.

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## UPCOMINGEVENTS

### ***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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