

Email not displaying correctly? Click [HERE](#) to view it as a PDF.



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XII, No. 15, April 16, 2012

eRegions

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Dear Colleagues,

Frustration is growing over inaction in Congress to pass a federal transportation bill or support historical jurisdictional relationships. The problems – no consensus on new funding, who has authority over existing funding and, for the first time, no consensus that federal spending on infrastructure is good for the country. Congress is back in session this week and a priority will be to test Keystone Pipeline funding through an extension. NARC has held hundreds of meetings to discuss the importance of the local-regional-state-federal

[PROGRAMUPDATE](#) [POLICYUPDATE](#)
[REGIONS360](#) [PARTNERUPDATE](#)
[GRANTOPPORTUNITIES](#) [UPCOMINGEVENTS](#)



[Registration Open.](#)

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

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

Your Region in Photos!

NARC would like to proudly feature your region in displays throughout the NARC office in DC and in the Exhibit Hall in St. Petersburg. Photos could include iconic buildings, projects or places that capture the spirit, history or importance about your region that you would like to share.

Please help us by sending one to two photos to lindsey@narc.org or uploading them to our drop box [HERE](#).

Photos must be high resolution - 300 dpi or better at 100 percent - and royalty-free. Images will be used during the NARC 46th Annual Conference, NARC publications and web materials. To be included in the Exhibit Hall display, photos must be received by Friday, May 18th.

partnership and passing a well-funded transportation bill; though most agree that enthusiasm is waning. NARC is prepared to address one of three possible outcomes, and implications of, moving a bill forward this week: House accepts Senate bill; House introduces new bill; or we start over. None-the less, we've spent too much time nibbling at the edge of consensus and not enough time biting the core – our national commitment to global competitiveness.

We ask, and urge you to do the same, Congress to continue their support of 40 plus years of effective [local-regional-state-federal partnerships](#) and commit to enhancing revenue.

Fred

NARCLEADERSHIP

President Ron

Morrison,

Mayor,

National City, CA

Chair Mark Policinski,

Executive Directors

Council

Executive Director, Ohio-

Kentucky-Indiana

PROGRAMUPDATE

New! NARC Solar Energy Webpage: NARC recently re-vamped its solar energy [webpage](#) to incorporate the Department of Energy's new [SunShot Initiative](#), which is funding a NARC project, the SunShot Solar Outreach Partnership. This project, also called Solar OPs, aims to increase the use and integration of solar energy in communities across the US. The new webpage highlights the best resources for regionally-specific solar-related information, and upcoming solar workshops and events. Bookmark NARC's solar energy [webpage](#) and check for frequent updates.

POLICYUPDATE

Congress is in session.

Federal Transportation Authorization Update: The U.S. House of Representatives is expected to begin consideration of legislation that would push forward the Keystone Pipeline project in an attempt to tie it to the U.S. Senate-passed transportation authorization. It is also possible that the House will ask for an additional, short-term authorization extension to garner additional time to negotiate a compromise between the House and Senate. The current short-term federal surface transportation authorization extension expires on June 30, 2012.

Senate Appropriations Update: The U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee is scheduled to consider the FY13 Transportation; Housing and Urban Development; and Related Agencies appropriation's bills tomorrow, Tuesday, April 17, 2012.

REGIONS360

Examining the Factors that Impact Local Government Leaders' Attitudes on Regional Collaboration and North Carolina's Regional Councils: Former NARC Intern Seth Cutter recently completed his Master of Public Administration's thesis, which is available by clicking [HERE](#). His thesis pulls from research completed while at NARC and while also an intern for the Triangle J Council of Governments.

Regional Council of
Governments

NARCSTAFF

Fred Abousleman

Executive Director

Shannon Baxevanis

Deputy Director

Mia Colson

Program Analyst

Kristin Heery

Program Analyst

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.](#)

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

PARTNERUPDATE

“Mr. Murray on the Decay of American Virtue: Inequality III” by Bill Barnes. Charles Murray’s new book, “Coming Apart,” is a lament --- wrapped around some data analysis --- for an American community and individual qualities that never existed but for which he mourns and wishes nonetheless. Both Murray and Edsall (see the April 9, 2012 edition of *eRegions*) --- for radically different reasons --- challenge readers to accept that reconciling the effects of half a century of fundamental economic shifts, social upheavals, and growing inequality is the rendezvous that is our destiny. Click [HERE](#) to access this latest issue of the National League of Cities' *Emerging Issues* column by Bill Barnes.

GRANTOPPORTUNITIES

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.

UPCOMINGEVENTS

Firefighter Safety and Photovoltaic Systems Webinar

April 17, 2012 1:00pm ET: Join Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) for a webinar to discuss the results of research conducted by UL to examine the fire service concerns of photovoltaic (PV) systems and the potential impact of firefighting operations. These concerns included firefighter vulnerability to electrical and casualty hazards when mitigating a fire involving PV systems. For more information and to register, click [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.

Economic (Re)Development and Solar Webinar

April 24, 2012 1:00pm ET: Looking for something to do with that former landfill? Interested in renewable energy? Join the International City/County Management Association's (ICMA) webinar to learn about the benefits of pursuing solar projects on contaminated sites and vacant land, important considerations when pursuing projects on contaminated sites and vacant land and the tools that exist to help evaluate potential projects. Learn more about the webinar and register [HERE](#).

Clean Energy Opportunities Webinar

April 26, 2012 2:00pm ET: Join the Solar Electric Power Association (SEPA) for a webinar on *CLEAN Programs: Helping Utilities Meet Renewable Energy Goals*. Clean Local Energy Accessible Now ("CLEAN") programs, also known as feed-in tariffs, are proven, easy-to-implement policies that help utilities meet renewable energy goals and help communities capture clean energy jobs and investment opportunities, all while minimizing administrative burdens on utility staff. This webinar will explain how to evaluate, design and implement a cost-effective CLEAN program. To register, click [HERE](#).

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.

We are sending you this email primarily for your information, to meet your needs, further our valued relationship and because you requested to receive electronic newsletters from the National Association of Regional Councils. Please forward as appropriate.

[Unsubscribe](#) lindsey@narc.org from this list.

Our mailing address is:
National Association of Regional Councils
777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 305
Washington, DC 20002

Copyright (C) 2012 National Association of Regional Councils All rights reserved.

[Forward](#) this email to a friend

[Update your profile](#)