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## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

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# eRegions

### EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Dear Colleagues,

I was honored to present during the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government's recent forum to discuss regional and national infrastructure needs and funding solutions. The program, sponsored by Our Nation's Capital, brought together public and private speakers to discuss creating infrastructure banks and other infrastructure financing mechanisms. This was the first forum which brought together stakeholders from across the region to address the transportation, water, and other infrastructure challenges facing metropolitan Washington

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**[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](mailto: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.**

and the nation. Thank you to David Robertson and my fellow presenters.

Infrastructure and funding solutions, among many other topics, will also be a major part of our upcoming 46th Annual Conference and Exhibition in St. Petersburg, Florida. Plan to join us in June and add your voice to the regional discussion. We look forward to seeing you there.

Best,  
Fred

## **NARC LEADERSHIP**

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Mayor,

National City, CA

**Chair Mark Policinski,**

Executive Directors

Council

Executive Director, Ohio-

Kentucky-Indiana

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Governments

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# **PROGRAM UPDATE**

**NARC Team Featured in Promising Practice Compendium for Workforce Development:** Recently, NARC and its *Pathways Out of Poverty* project partners, including several national organizations, as well as the Central Arizona Association of Governments, the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission, the Permian Basin Regional Planning Commission and the SouthEastern Arizona Governments Organization, were featured in the March 2012 *Promising Practices Compendium* written by the National Governors Association and its partners. The *Compendium* features 28 profiles of various U.S. Department of Labor grantees working on ARRA High Growth and Emerging Industries grants. Learn more and download the PDF report [HERE](#).

**EPA Hosts Web Conference on the Draft "National Water Program 2012 Strategy":** Earlier this month the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its draft "National Water Program 2012 Strategy: Response to Climate Change," which is open for a 45-day public comment period that closes on May 17. EPA is hosting a web-based conference on the strategy on May 3, 2012 from 3:00pm - 5:00pm EDT. For more information on the strategy and how to participate in the web conference, click [HERE](#).

**HUD Welcomes New Deputy Secretary:** Last week the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) swore in Maurice Jones as the Deputy Secretary, a position that handles day-to-day operations, a nearly \$47 billion annual operating budget, and the agency's 8,900 employees. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about Deputy Secretary Jones.

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# **POLICY UPDATE**

*Congress is in session.*

**FY13 Appropriations Update:** The appropriations committees in both chambers of Congress are working on moving forward the 12 annual spending bills with some progress already occurring at the subcommittee level. Last week the House received a veto threat from President Obama due to the House-passed budget resolution exceeded the cuts enacted by the Budget Control Act of 2011. The White House announced that

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**Jenee Kresge**  
Economic and  
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**Lindsey Riley**

Deputy of  
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**Erika Young**

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barring a change to the GOP proposed spending levels, the President will veto their funding bills. NARC will keep members informed of the progress for the spending bills that most impact regions and local governments.

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## REGIONS360

**ARC Hosts Annual LINK Trip:** The Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) recently completed its LINK trip, which brought local elected officials into Washington, DC and focuses on learning from peer organizations across the country. This year's trip focused on ARC's 10-year, 1-percent proposed sales tax to support transportation projects. Additional information about the trip is available **HERE.**

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## PARTNERUPDATE

**Be a Part of the ICMA Annual Conference Program: Speakers Wanted:** ICMA staff is now accepting **applications for speakers** to participate in our 98th Annual Conference, which takes place October 7-10, 2012 in Phoenix/Maricopa County, Arizona. We are looking for the best combination of panelists to share their expertise during sessions focused on: Business as Unusual: Shared and Regional Service Delivery Approaches and Alternative Business Models; Engaging Citizens by Building Communities Online; Managing Employee Benefits; Finding Pathways from Polarization to Civility; Get (and Keep) a Life! Dealing with Personal and Family Stresses of Local Government Management; and Career tracks focused on assistant managers, and small-community managers. **Download and submit an application** by Friday, May 25, to be considered as a speaker (you'll find the application at the bottom of the website page). Applications must be completed electronically and submitted to **callforspeakers@icma.org**. Full details and application form are available at **icma.org/callforspeakers.**

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## GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

### **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.

#### **\$20 Million Available for EPA Clean Diesel Projects**

Deadline: June 4, 2012

EPA is announcing the availability of up to \$20 million in FY12 grant funding through the Diesel Emission Reduction Program to establish clean diesel projects aimed at reducing harmful pollution from the nation's existing fleet of diesel engines and improving air quality and Americans' health. In addition to these grants, approximately \$9 million will be available through direct state allocations. Request for Proposals forms and related documents can be accessed by clicking [HERE](#).

#### **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**

***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.

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