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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XII, No. 18, May 7, 2012

eRegions

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

Congressional conferees resume transportation authorization discussion this week; I want to thank all of you who talked to your Congressional delegations. We will be contacting the Conferees further over the next few weeks on regional and local transportation issues in their positions and will keep you informed.

I'm also excited to report that the Renaissance Vinoy Hotel in St. Petersburg is almost sold out so please make your reservations for our upcoming 46th Annual Conference. We will also be releasing baseball

[PROGRAMUPDATE](#) [POLICYUPDATE](#)
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[Registration Open.](#)

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

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

Other information available:

[NARC General Achievement and Leadership Awards](#)

[Board of Director Elections](#)

[Executive Directors Council Elections](#)

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

information soon, as the Mets play the Rays while we are in town. We have great conference sessions and lots to do during your free time - see you soon!

Fred

NARC LEADERSHIP

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Mayor,

National City, CA

Chair Mark Policinski,

Executive Directors

Council

Executive Director, Ohio-

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To access past issues

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.

PROGRAM UPDATE

How Green Infrastructure Saves Municipalities Money: The American Society of Landscape Architects just released “Banking Green: How Green Infrastructure Saves Municipalities Money and Provides Economic Benefits Community-Wide.” This report looks at the most cost-effective options for managing polluted runoff and protecting clean water and finds that green infrastructure solutions save taxpayer money and provide community benefits by managing stormwater where it falls. To read the report, click [HERE](#).

FEMA Releases National Preparedness Report: The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and its partners released the National Preparedness Report (NPR), which identifies significant progress the nation has made in areas of prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery. Overall the Report found that the nation has increased its collective preparedness, not only from external threats, but also for natural and technological hazards that face its communities. For more information and to download the Report, click [HERE](#) or contribute your ideas, click [HERE](#).

Solar, Sustainability and Energy Efficiency Podcast: The International City/County Management Association (ICMA) released a podcast on Solar, Sustainability and Energy Efficiency in Columbia, MO. The podcast discusses the city’s solar initiatives and how they tie in with other energy efficiency and sustainability programs underway in the community. To listen to the podcast, click [HERE](#).

Climate Adaptation & Transportation Report: The Center for Clean Air Policy (CCAP) and the Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) just released their *Climate Adaptation & Transportation: Identifying Information and Assistance Needs Report*, which presents the findings of a NOAA-funded workshop in which transportation and climate change experts identified critical information and technical assistance needs for climate adaptation. To read the report, click [HERE](#).

Conference Calls for Potential i6 Challenge Applicants: The U.S.

of eRegions, [visit our website](#).

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

Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration is organizing a series of interactive calls with the National Advisory Council on Innovation and Entrepreneurship to offer insight on how to design and implement award winning Proof of Concept innovation and entrepreneurship centers. To register, email i6@eda.gov with your name, title, organization, e-mail address, telephone number, and the date of the conference call you plan to join. The dial in number is 1-888-889-2040; the participant passcode is 3818714. Calls are at the following times (all ET):

- May 8, 4:00 p.m.: Ms. Robin Chase, co-founder of Zipcar and founder and CEO of Buzzcar
- May 15, 4:00 p.m.: Dr. G.P. “Bud” Peterson, president of Georgia Institute of Technology
- May 16, 1:00 p.m.: Dr. Desh Deshpande, chairman of Sparta Group and co-chair of NACIE
- May 22, 4:00 p.m.: Dr. Christina Gabriel, president, University Energy Partnership
- May 24, 2:30 p.m.: Dr. Mary Sue Coleman, president, Univ. of Michigan and co-chair of NACIE
- May 29, 4:00 p.m.: Ms. Krisztina “Z” Holly, vice provost for innovation, USC
- May 30, 4:00 p.m.: Mr. Ray Leach, CEO of Jumpstart Inc.

POLICYUPDATE

Congress is in session.

House to Work on Preventing Automatic Appropriations

Sequester: The Budget Act of 2011 required the institution of \$109 billion in automatic, across-the-board cuts from discretionary spending in January 2013. The House Budget Committee begins efforts on two bills to address this issue. H.R. 4966 would stop nearly \$98 billion of the \$109 billion in spending cuts with more than half eliminated from defense programs. The second bill is a “budget reconciliation” measure that would put in place more than \$300 billion in new savings over 10 years to substitute for the sequester.

NARC Joins Farm Bill Letter Urging Senate Movement: A coalition of stakeholders, including NARC, NACo and APWA, sent a letter to Senate leadership requesting that the committee-passed Farm Bill be brought to the Senate floor for a vote. Click [HERE](#) to access the letter. Click [HERE](#)

to access information on the bill.

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.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

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](#).

USDA Farmers Market Promotion Program

Application Due: May 21, 2012

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced funding for The Farmers Market Promotion Program, which provides support for activities designed to promote the domestic consumption of agricultural commodities by expanding direct producer-to-consumer marketing opportunities. Application are due 5/21/2012. Proposed projects will encourage the development, promotion, and expansion of direct marketing of agricultural commodities from farmers to consumers. Click

[HERE](#) for more information.

EPA Offers Great Lakes Restoration Grants and Informational Webinar

Applications Due: May 24, 2012

As part of their Great Lakes Restoration Initiative [[GLRI](#)], U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently soliciting applications for grants and cooperative agreements. EPA will competitively award approximately \$20 million for about 100 projects. These grants will fund a wide range of projects in the Great Lakes basin, including work to target invasive species, to protect public health, and to reduce the impact of toxic substances and nonpoint source pollution. Applications must be submitted by May 24, 2012. Click [HERE](#) for instructions on how to apply. Click [HERE](#) to register for a webinar on May 14, 2012 from 10am-12pm CT.

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.

UPCOMINGEVENTS

EPA Webcast Series on Funding & Financing Local Government Clean Energy Programs: Part I: Getting Started: Answering Big Picture Funding Questions

May 16, 2012, 2:00-3:30pm ET

Many local governments are investing in clean energy programs to meet their energy, environmental, and economic policy goals. In this post-ARRA world, they're also asking how they should fund these clean energy programs. This introductory webinar will cover the big picture questions that local governments should consider. What resources are available? What are the program priorities? How can these programs pay for themselves? What funding is available? This webinar will guide local governments through these and other questions in the context of their own unique circumstances and illustrate the concepts through case studies that explore how local governments have used both conventional

and unconventional methods to gain support, line up partners, and design and implement their funding programs. To register, click [HERE](#).

***EPA Webcast Series on Funding & Financing Local Government
Clean Energy Programs: Part II: Getting it Funded: Finding Funding
for your Clean Energy Programs***

May 30, 2012, 2:00-3:30pm ET

Part II of this webinar series explores the holy grail of local government program design: finding sources of funding. This fast-paced presentation will cover seed funding versus sustainable funding, funding that can be used up versus what must be repaid, sources of revenue, and more. Local government case studies will demonstrate how to identify and understand the sources of funding, including grants, energy savings, partnering with the private sector, fees and taxes, leasing agreements, and bonds. To register, click [HERE](#).

46th Annual Conference and Exhibition

June 10-14, 2012, St. Petersburg, FL: 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](#).

***EPA Webcast Series on Funding & Financing Local Government
Clean Energy Programs: Part III: Keeping it Going: Financing
Options for your Clean Energy Programs***

June 13, 2012, 2:00-3:30pm ET

It's one thing to secure initial funding to launch a clean energy program; it's another to implement smart financing mechanisms that can help leverage existing funds and make clean energy investments more affordable for clean energy program audiences (residential, commercial, and municipal sectors). In Part III of this webinar series, learn how to choose and implement financing options that meet local needs. Hear from local governments about successful programs using a variety of financing models. Also learn about new resources from EPA that can help identify and design financing programs that are specific to a community's needs: the [Financing Program Decision Tool](#) (<http://go.usa.gov/VRI>), and [Clean Energy Financing Programs: A Decision Resource for States and Communities](#) (<http://go.usa.gov/VRI>). To register, click [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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