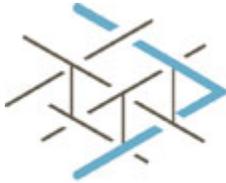


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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XII, No. 19, May 14, 2012

eRegions

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

It's almost time for the 46th Annual Conference and I look forward to seeing you all. Building on a wildly successful National Conference of Regions in February we with our host the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council put together excellent sessions and discussions on water, transportation, aging, workforce and other topics. We also have university and agency partners and practitioners giving us best practices and setting the stage for future discussions. Please register and come together at the premier conference for urban and

[PROGRAM UPDATE](#) [POLICY UPDATE](#)
[PARTNER UPDATE](#)
[GRANT OPPORTUNITIES](#) [UPCOMING EVENTS](#)



[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

rural, large and small regions.

I also want to thank our Washington, Oregon and California members and their state associations for hosting me during NARC's recent West Coast trip.

Best,
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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Community Development
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Communications

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Transportation Director

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

Green Infrastructure Presentation at Virginia Tech: Last week NARC presented on a panel with American Rivers and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to discuss the importance of green infrastructure as an organizing framework for sustainable development and the need to create a strong nationwide green infrastructure network. The meeting was convened by Virginia Tech's Center for Leadership in Global Sustainability for the Executive Master of Natural Resources Leadership for Sustainability Program (XMNR). As part of XMNR, students will create projects to build green infrastructure's capacity in regions and national communities. For more information, contact Jenee Kresge, jenee@narc.org and stay tuned for project updates!

Interactive Map of Food Insecurity by County: Feeding America recently updated its "Map the Meal Gap" map with 2009 and 2010 data to provide county-level data on hunger and child food insecurity. Click [HERE](#) to access the map and information on counties within your region.

POLICY UPDATE

Congress is in session.

The House Passes its First FY13 Appropriations Bill: Last week the U.S. House of Representatives passed the first of 12 FY13 appropriations bill. The Commerce-Justice-Science bill (HR 5326), which was passed on May 10, would provide \$51.1B (\$1.8B less than FY12). The bill would provide \$182M for Economic Development Assistance Programs; EDA Assistance Programs were funded at \$220M in FY12, representing a \$38M reduction. The Senate has passed theirs out of Committee. Finishing the full appropriations process before the start of the new fiscal year on October 1 will be an uphill battle. The House only has about 20 full working days scheduled before the start of the new budget, plus another 22 days with votes slated to either begin at 6:30pm or end at 3:00pm.

To access past issues of *eRegions*, [visit our website](#).

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

President Signs New Executive Order to Reduce Regulations: On May 10, President Obama signed a new Executive Order (EO), “Identifying and Reducing Regulatory Burdens,” a plan designed to review and eliminate outdated and unnecessary regulations. The order requires agencies to provide the public with regular reports on their past efforts and future plans, with details and deadlines, as well as requires agencies to give consideration to the cumulative effects of their own regulations, including cumulative burdens, and to the extent practicable and consistent with law give priority to reforms that would make significant progress in reducing those burdens while protecting public health, welfare, safety, and our environment. Click [HERE](#) to access the EO. The White House Council of Economic Advisors also issued a report, “Smarter Regulations Through Retrospective Review,” that highlights the previous EO regulatory review effort initiated in January 2011. Click [HERE](#) to access the report.

White House Issues Federal Employee Conference Travel

Limitations: The White House Office of Management and Budget Director (OMB) issued guidelines instituting high-level review of proposed conference spending and prohibiting spending of more than \$500,000 on a conference without special permission. In addition to the new high-level review restrictions, OMB instructed agencies to cut their travel budgets by 30 percent and to post on their public web sites every January an accounting of all conferences costing more than \$100,000. Click [HERE](#) to access the guidelines.

U.S. DOT Issues New Environmental Justice Order: On May 10, 2012, U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) issued a final order that updated their guidance on environmental justice in transportation planning which reaffirms DOT’s commitment to environmental justice and clarifies certain aspects, including the definitions of “minority” populations. The revisions clarify the distinction between a Title VI analysis and an environmental justice analysis conducted as part of a NEPA review and affirm the importance of considering environmental justice principles as part of early planning activities. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

REGIONS360

Request for Qualifications (RFQ) from Broward MPO: Deadline 5:00 PM, May 25, 2012; The Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization

(MPO) is seeking a qualified consultant to develop the Year 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan Update. Potential applications should be able to provide the services as outlined in the RFQ. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

MORPC Launches New Blog on Regionalism: MORPC's new blog, Regional News & Views, focuses on regionalism in central Ohio and around the country from the viewpoint of our Officers and Directors. Click [HERE](#) to access the blog.

PARTNERUPDATE

Regional Excellence: *Why Regions Fail.* Former NARC Executive Director Bill Dodge authors this column and can be reached at WilliamRDodge@aol.com. Click [HERE](#) to access the column.

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 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. Applications 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](#).

Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI) Grants Available from HHS

Deadline: June 5, 2012

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Community and Economic Development (CED) program will provide up to \$10 million in funding for community development corporations to fund CED projects located in food deserts and designed to improve access to healthy, affordable foods. Additional information on the HFFI partnership and the full funding announcement is available [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

Conference Calls for Potential i6 Challenge Applicants

The U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development

Administration will continue to hold 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 15, 4:00pm: Dr. G.P. "Bud" Peterson, president of Georgia Institute of Technology
- May 16, 1:00pm: Dr. Desh Deshpande, chairman of Sparta Group and co-chair of NACIE
- May 22, 4:00pm: Dr. Christina Gabriel, president, University Energy Partnership
- May 24, 2:30pm: Dr. Mary Sue Coleman, president, Univ. of Michigan and co-chair of NACIE
- May 29, 4:00pm: Ms. Krisztina "Z" Holly, vice provost for innovation, USC
- May 30, 4:00pm: Mr. Ray Leach, CEO of Jumpstart Inc.

***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](#).

Improve Efficiency of Rooftop Solar Permitting

June 6, 2012, 2:00-3:00pm EDT: There is a general consensus that to bring the price of rooftop solar installations down significantly there needs to be improvements made to increase the efficiency of the permitting process. This ICLEI hosted free webinar will discuss the approaches being used across the country to help catalyze action at a local, regional and state level to improve the efficiency of the rooftop permitting process and will highlight specific improvements being put into place. 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](#)

[\(<http://go.usa.gov/VRi>\)](http://go.usa.gov/VRi). To register, click [HERE](#).

NLC and FHWA Webinar on TIFIA

July 11, 2012, 1:30-3:30pm ET

The National League of Cities (NLC) and Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Office of Innovative Program Delivery is pleased to host a webinar on the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) program. This webinar will help city, county and public transportation leader's gain an understanding of innovative financing techniques used to construct large infrastructure projects. This webinar will provide an executive overview of TIFIA Federal Credit Assistance program, whose objective is to leverage Federal transportation funding to attract private investment to the U.S. surface transportation sector. After successfully completing this webinar participants will understand the benefits of federal credit assistance and the intricacies of securing this funding to build needed infrastructure. There is no cost to participate in this webinar and it is open to everyone who is interested. You must register in advance, click [HERE](#), to reserve your connection for this webinar. For more information, contact Thay Bishop of the Innovative Program Delivery Office at 404-562-3695 or thay.bishop@dot.gov.

2012 Ohio Conference on Freight

September 13-14, 2012, Toledo, OH: Save the Date! The Ohio Conference on Freight is a highly regarded forum featuring experts in all modes of freight transportation. It focuses on the development of freight-related economic opportunity within Ohio and its surrounding states and the wider Great Lakes region, including Canada. Click [HERE](#) to access the conference website; registration will open on June 27, 2012.

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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