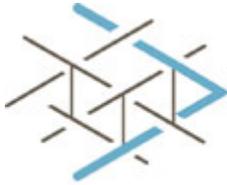


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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XII, No. 21, May 29, 2012

eRegions

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

I am particularly excited about the Annual Conference workshops we feature this year. Every year in conjunction with partnership from Federal agencies, we provide in-depth and enlightening workshops. This year we feature four powerful workshops: Working Effectively with Military Installations; Making Livability Real; a SunShot Solar Outreach Partnership Workshop; and a Green Infrastructure Listening Session. These workshops provide you an opportunity to learn, ask questions and share on cutting edge

[PROGRAM UPDATE](#) [POLICY UPDATE](#)
[PARTNER UPDATE](#) [REGIONS 360](#)
[GRANT OPPORTUNITIES](#) [UPCOMING EVENTS](#)



[Registration Open.](#)

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

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

PROGRAM UPDATE

Webinar on EPA's Clean Water Act Integrated Planning

Framework: The Water Environment Federation (WEF) is offering a webinar to discuss the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on its updated and revised Integrated Planning Approach Framework, which is intended to help guide States and localities to address their pressing water quality issues through integrated municipal stormwater and

programswith your peers nationwide. Please make sure to attend as many as you can. See you soon in St. Petersburg!

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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Manager

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Deputy of

Communications

Erika Young

Transportation Director

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wastewater plans. On June 14 from 10am-12pm, WEF will offer a webinar on the key provisions and revisions of the revised framework and will provide their perspectives on the implementation process. To register for this webcast, click [HERE](#).

Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge in Advanced

Manufacturing Announced: *Application Deadline: July 9, 2012.* A multi-agency effort, including several agencies from the Department of Commerce and Department of Labor, has been announced to fund advanced manufacturing activities that drive high potential industry clusters. The [Advanced Manufacturing Jobs Accelerator](#) allows applicants to submit a single multi-year project narrative to multiple funding agencies to support various aspects of the project, including: up to \$800,000 per year in cluster development support from the Economic Development Administration; up to \$125,000 per year in from the Manufacturing Extension Partnership; up to \$150,000 per year from the Department of Energy's Advanced Manufacturing Office for research and development; up to \$400,000 total in H-1B Technical Skills Training from the Employment and Training Administration; and, up to \$167,000 total in technical assistance support for small businesses. Up to 12 awards are anticipated, with each award receiving funding from one or more participating agencies. Access the Federal Funding Opportunity with additional details [HERE](#).

POLICY UPDATE

The House is in session starting Wednesday. The Senate is out of session until June 4.

Congressional Leaders Detail Legislative Focus: House Majority Leader Cantor and Senate Majority Leader Reid laid out their legislative action priorities for the coming months. Cantor sent out a memo to House Republicans on the summer's focus, including moving the FY13 appropriations bills, domestic energy production, and tax code reform, among others. Reid, zeroing in on June's schedule, is set on moving a payroll tax credit, student loan interest rate extension, farm bill reauthorization and flood insurance reauthorization.

Senate Passes Extension of Flood Insurance Program: Last week, the Senate passed a 60 day extension of the federal flood insurance programs; the current extension expires May 31. As indicated by Majority

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Leader Reid, the Senate intends to work on the full reauthorization bill, S 1940.

NARC and Freight Stakeholders Urge Support of Freight Program:

Last week, as a part of the Freight Stakeholders Coalition, NARC signed on to a letter sent to surface transportation authorization conferees that requested support for a national freight program in the pending legislation. The Coalition is supportive of language in S 1813 which would establish a National Freight Program and provide \$2 billion per year in funding by formula to states specifically to address freight connectivity issues. The Coalition has additional recommendations for the conference committee that can be accessed by clicking [HERE](#).

Senate Farm Bill Introduced: The Agriculture Reform Food and Jobs Act of 2012 ([S. 3240](#)) was officially introduced in the Senate late last week. The bipartisan bill delivers the required \$23 billion in savings, per the sequestration requirements. The House Agriculture Committee has not yet set a markup date, but plans to have the bill through the committee before July 4th. NARC will continue to work with its partners on the Campaign for a Renewed Rural Development to ensure that the Rural Development title is fully funded, and continue to provide updates on the 2012 Farm Bill process. For additional information, please contact [Jenee Kresge](#).

Workforce Investment Act Reauthorization Sign-On Letter: The National Association of Workforce Boards and the International Economic Development Council have authored a letter regarding the importance of reauthorizing the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) for economic development organizations across the country. You can read the full text of the letter and sign on behalf of your organization [HERE](#).

REGIONS360

Request for Qualifications (RFQ) from Broward MPO: Deadline 5:00 PM, July 2, 2012; The Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is seeking qualified consultants to conduct a transit alternative analysis study for the University Drive corridor in Broward County, Florida 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 attached RFQ announcement. The RFQ document can be downloaded

by clicking [HERE](#).

ARC Adds Arts and Culture to Planning Scope: The Atlanta Regional Commission voted to incorporate arts and culture as a part of its regional planning efforts on behalf of the 10-county Atlanta region. In doing so, ARC assumes the role of the Metropolitan Atlanta Arts and Culture Coalition (MAACC), to promote the Atlanta region as a premier center for the arts and culture. Click [HERE](#) for additional information regarding this announcement.

EPA Awards Several Regional Councils Funding to Clean Up Contaminated Sites and Revitalize Communities: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced \$69.3 million in grants for new investments to provide communities with funding necessary to clean and redevelop contaminated properties, boost local economies and create jobs while protecting public health. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

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

\$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](#).

APA Community Planning Assistance Application Deadline Approaching

Deadline: June 13, 2012

The American Planning Association offers pro bono technical assistance to communities lacking planning resources through its Community Planning Assistance Teams program. Additional information on the program and application process is available [HERE](#).

Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge in Advanced Manufacturing Announced

Application Deadline: July 9, 2012

A multi-agency effort, including several agencies from the Department of Commerce and Department of Labor, has been announced to fund advanced manufacturing activities that drive high potential industry clusters. The [Advanced Manufacturing Jobs Accelerator](#) allows applicants to submit a single multi-year project narrative to multiple funding agencies to support various aspects of the project, including: up to \$800,000 per year in cluster development support from the Economic Development Administration; up to \$125,000 per year in from the Manufacturing Extension Partnership; up to \$150,000 per year from the Department of Energy's Advanced Manufacturing Office for research and development; up to \$400,000 total in H-1B Technical Skills Training from the Employment and Training Administration; and, up to \$167,000 total in technical assistance support for small businesses. Up to 12 awards

are anticipated, with each award receiving funding from one or more participating agencies. Access the Federal Funding Opportunity with additional details [HERE](#).

UPCOMINGEVENTS

Improve Efficiency of Rooftop Solar Permitting

June 6, 2012, 2:00-3:00pm ET

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's Clean Water Act Integrated Planning Framework Webinar

June 14, 2012, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm ET: The Water Environment Federation (WEF) is offering a webinar to discuss the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on its updated and revised Integrated Planning Approach Framework, which is intended to help guide States and localities to address their pressing water quality issues through integrated municipal stormwater and wastewater plans. WEF will offer a webinar on the key provisions and revisions of the revised framework and will provide their perspectives on the implementation process. To register for this webcast, click [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) (<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, 1:30-3:30 pm 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.

Regional Collaborative Procurement for Solar PV Webinar

July 12th, 2012 3:00-4:00pm ET

NARC is hosting a webinar on regional collaborative procurement. This webinar will discuss how through collaborative procurement, communities can reduce the up-front costs of solar installations by working together as a group to evaluate project sites, procure solar systems and negotiate contracts, thus yielding much lower transaction costs for each individual partner. Learn about the techniques used to establish a successful collaborative procurement process and how it can be replicated in your region. Speakers include Tyler Espinoza, Project

Manager, Optony Inc.; Blaine Collison, Director, U.S. EPA Green Power Partnership; and Jeff King, Principal Environmental Planner, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. Click [HERE](#) to register. For questions about the webinar, please email Mia Colson at Mia@NARC.org.

13th National Tools of the Trade Conference

September 12 - 14, 2012, Big Sky, MT

Join transportation professionals from around the country to network, share ideas, and learn about the latest developments and opportunities for transportation planning in small and medium sized communities. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

2012 Ohio Conference on Freight

September 13-14, 2012, Sandusky, 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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