

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



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XI, No. 21, June 6, 2011

eRegions

NARCLEADERSHIP

President James 'Jim'
Townsend,

Judge/Executive,
Webster County,
Kentucky

Chair Charles 'Chick'
Krautler,

Executive Directors
Council

Director, Atlanta
Regional Commission

[PROGRAMUPDATE](#) [POLICYUPDATE](#) [REGIONS360⁰](#)
[GRANTOPPORTUNITIES](#) [UPCOMINGEVENTS](#)



EXECUTIVEBRIEF

Colleagues,

We're less than a week away from the start of our 45th Annual Conference and Exhibition. With sessions on innovative transportation financing to sustainability and economic indicators, as well as speakers from the U.S. Department of

Registration Closes on Thursday!

Join your colleagues from around the country at the largest event focused on promoting effective regional cooperation and solutions through interaction and education - NARC's 45th Annual Conference and Exhibition. Click [HERE](#) to register or access the current draft agenda. Contact Lindsey Riley at lindsey@narc.org or 202.986.1032 x220 for more information.

Annual Membership Meeting: The Annual Business Meeting and Elections will be held on Wednesday, June 15. *Only NARC members of current standing may vote.* Please email or fax Mia Colson, mia@narc.org, a Voting Delegates form. Click [HERE](#) to access a copy of the form.

Defense, the LA County Metropolitan Transit Agency and many regions, there is something for everyone. Hurry - registration closes on Thursday!

Best,
Fred

NARCSTAFF

Fred Abousleman

Executive Director

Shannon Baxevanis

Deputy Director

Sylvia Bryant

Office Manager

Mia Colson

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](#).

PROGRAMUPDATE

NARC Survey on Regional Experiences in Federal Emergency Grants:

The National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) is working on a report for Congress with recommendations on the effectiveness of grants administered by the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), namely the State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSG) and the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI). To best assist NAPA in their assessment and provide the regional perspective, NARC respectfully requests members fill out a brief online survey that poses questions important to NAPA's effort. Click [HERE](#) to access the survey.

EDA to Host Webinar on Grant Opportunity: The U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) is hosting a webinar tomorrow, Tuesday, June 7 at 3:30pm for prospective applicants of the \$33 million Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge funding opportunity announced last month. Click [HERE](#) for additional information on the grant opportunity. Click [HERE](#) to register for the webinar.

N4A Releases Report on Community Responses to Aging Population: The National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) released *The Maturing of America - Communities Moving Forward for an Aging Population*, a report that follows up on n4a's 2005 survey on how communities meet the needs of America's aging population. Access the report's Executive Summary [HERE](#) or the full report [HERE](#).

POLICYUPDATE

The Senate is in session; the House is out of session all week.

Senate Expected to Take Up EDA Reauthorization: This week the Senate is expected to take up legislation to reauthorize the Economic Development Administration (S 782). The bill, which passed favorably through the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (EPW) in early May, should have strong bi-partisan support. That bill would authorize \$500 million a year for EDA through FY 2015 and would tweak EDA grant programs to encourage a focus on information technology, energy and water efficiency and reduce the nation's dependence on imported oil. Last week NARC sent a letter to EPW Chairman Boxer (D-CA) and Ranking Member Inhofe (R-OK) supporting

prompt passage of the bill. Click [HERE](#) to access the letter.

Senate Commerce Committee Scheduled to Markup Broadband Bill:

The Senate Commerce Committee is scheduled on June 8 to markup of legislation that would set aside the D-Block for public safety communications and authorize funding of a nationwide interoperable communication system (S 911), the Public Safety Spectrum and Wireless Innovation Act. NARC, along with many other associations, supports this bill. Visit the [Public Safety Alliance's](#) website to learn more.

House Passes Homeland Security Appropriations Bill: The House approved the FY12 homeland security appropriations bill (HR 2017), which would provide \$40.6 billion in discretionary funds, a 2.6 percent decrease from FY11 and 6.8 percent less than requested by President Obama for FY12. Of these funds, FEMA would be allocated \$5.4 billion, a decrease of \$1.9 billion or 26% from FY11, which includes \$1 billion for state and local grants, a reduction of \$2.1 billion or 55% from FY11. The bill would also combine funding for nine programs that have historically been separately funded at \$1 billion for FY12 (a \$1.043 billion reduction) with levels at the Secretary's discretion. The nine programs are State Homeland Security Grants (\$725 million), Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) (\$724 million), Metropolitan Medical Response Systems (\$35 million), Citizen Corps (\$10 million), Rail & Transit Security Grants (\$250 million), Bus Security Grants (\$5 million), Port Security Grants (\$250 million), Driver's License Security Grants (\$45 million) and Interoperable Emergency Communications Grants (zeroed out). Several amendments affecting UASIs and other state and local programs were considered. Those amendments included:

- APPROVED – to strike language relating to the top 10 highest risk urban areas;
- APPROVED – to remove language in HR 2017 that would restrict UASI funding to only 10 urban areas across the country.
- DEFEATED –to increase funds for state and local grant programs — including UASI — by \$337 million, primarily offset by a reduction in funds for border security fencing, infrastructure and technology.
- However, due to reduced funding, only 31 UASIs will be funded, which is down from 64 UASIs in FY10.

Administration Releases Regulation Reform Plans: The White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) released a comprehensive report on regulatory reform that outlines plans from all Executive Branch agencies to streamline and periodically review regulations. Click [HERE](#) to access

plans for the various federal agencies.



Request for Qualifications (RFQ) from Broward MPO: Deadline 5:00 PM, July 1, 2011; The Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization is seeking qualified consultants to establish a Library of Providers. Potential applications should be able to provide the services as outlined in the RFQ. Consultant Statement of Qualifications shall follow guidance provided in the Request for Qualification (RFQ) found under the “WHAT’s NEW” area on the following web site: www.browardMPO.org.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

ClimateWise Project

Deadline: June 10, 2011

The Geos Institute has pioneered a process called ClimateWise that offers community-based climate change planning services to communities across the nation. Working with local governments and regional planning organizations, the Geos Institute is seeking new partners for the next focal region where the process will be implemented. If you are interested in partnering with the Geos Institute, click [HERE](#) to review the Request for Partnerships or [HERE](#) for additional information about the Geos Institute.

EDA, ETA and SBA Announce Funds for Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge

LOI Deadline: June 10, 2011; Application Deadline: July 7, 2011

The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration (ETA) and Small Business Administration (SBA) announced the Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) for the Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge (Jobs Accelerator), which will fund regions to address gaps and opportunities for high-potential industry clusters. Funds can be used for commercialization, business formation and expansion, job creation, and exports. The Jobs Accelerator technical resources from 16 federal agencies and \$33 million in funding, with individual awards from \$1.5-2.2 million plus required matching funds. Awards are made to an organization or team eligible for three unique activities, each funded partially by EDA, ETA and SBA, supporting a single regional cluster. Access

the FFO [HERE](#), additional information [HERE](#), or register for a webinar for potential applicants on June 7, 2011 at 3:30pm [HERE](#).

Clean Cities Community Readiness and Planning for Plug-in Electric Vehicles and Charging Infrastructure

Deadline: June 13, 2011

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) National Energy Technology Laboratory is soliciting projects emphasizing the development of local and regional plug-in electric vehicle and charging infrastructure for their Clean Cities Community Readiness and Planning for Plug-in Electric Vehicles and Charging Infrastructure project. The U.S. DOE is interested in exploring ways that will prepare communities for successful deployment and implementation of plug-in electric drive vehicles. Projects should include policy implementation and planning elements that support the deployment of plug-in electric vehicles and charging infrastructure on the local and regional level. Plans must also address infrastructure deployment for light, medium and/or heavy duty plug-in electric vehicles (including extended range electric vehicles). Overall, the U.S. DOE hopes this effort will help to decrease the nation's dependence on petroleum and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by accelerating the deployment of plug-in electric drive vehicles and electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE). The U.S. DOE will award 10-15 awards ranging from \$250,000-\$500,000. More information is available [HERE](#).

The Kodak American Greenways Grant Program

Deadline: June 15, 2011

The Eastman Kodak Company, The Conservation Fund and the National Geographic Society have announced the release of their 2011 Greenways Awards. Each year a Greenway Award is presented to land trusts, local governments, and other organizations that are growing our nation's networks of greenways, blueways, trails and natural areas. These projects connect Americans to the outdoors and their heritage. Funded projects typically advance one or more of the program goals, including catalyzing new greenway projects; assisting grassroots greenway organizations; leveraging additional money for conservation and greenway development; and promoting use and enjoyment of greenways. Award amounts range from \$500 to \$2,500. The full grant announcement is available [HERE](#).

DOJ Competitive Grants for Information Sharing

Deadline: June 23, 2011

The Department of Justice (DOJ) seeks applicants for the National Justice Information Sharing (JIS) Initiative FY 2011 Competitive Grant program. Funds are available to national, regional, state, or local public and private

entities (including local governments) to improve information sharing through advanced technology and tools. There are several categories for eligible projects with award ceilings between \$50,000 and \$2.8 million. Applicants must register prior to submitting their final applications. Click [HERE](#) to access information.

EDA University Center Competition

Deadline: June 30, 2011

The U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) announced its FY 2011 University Center Economic Development Program competition to promote bottom-up regional strategies that help foster business expansion and job creation in EDA's Chicago and Philadelphia regions. Accredited institutions or consortium of higher education, including community colleges, are eligible to apply for funding. The U.S. EDA will award \$1.1 million in the Chicago region and \$1.4 million in the Philadelphia region. Additional information is available [HERE](#).

USDA 2011 Farmers' Market Promotion Program Grants

Deadline: July 1, 2011

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS) announced the availability of \$10 million for the FY 2011 Farmers' Market Promotion Program (FMPP). Grants of up to \$100,000 will be awarded for projects that increase domestic consumption of agricultural commodities by creating, improving and expanding farmers markets, roadside stands, or community-supported agriculture programs. Eligible applicants include local governments, agriculture cooperatives, regional farmers market authorities and nonprofits. The main priority for FY 2011 funding is increasing food access in food deserts and low-income communities, though all eligible activities will be considered to receive funding. No matching is required. Click [HERE](#) to access information.

Healthy Food Financing Initiative Funding Opportunity Announced.

Deadline: July 11, 2011

The Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI), funded at up to \$10 million for FY2011, will support projects located in food deserts and designed to improve access to healthy foods by developing grocery stores and other retailers. HFFI awards will be funded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) via its Community Economic Development program to provide resources from HHS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Treasury. Awards will be made to community development corporations (CDCs) for up to \$800,000 each. Additional information and application instructions are available [HERE](#).

WERF Unsolicited Research Program Accepting Pre-Proposals for Funding

Deadline: July 12, 2011

The Water Environment Research Foundation ([WERF](#)) is accepting pre-proposals under its 2011 Unsolicited Research Program. WERF is providing up to \$530,000 (in total) to fund pioneering research that significantly advances our understanding of today's most pressing water quality issues and provides practical solutions to the challenges facing wastewater and stormwater programs. WERF will also consider proposals that take existing research to the next level of completion. Proposers are invited to submit pre-proposals on topics consistent with WERF's ongoing efforts to advance science and technology addressing water quality issues as they impact water resources, the atmosphere, the land, and quality of life. Areas of interest include, but are not limited to, conveyance systems; wastewater treatment; reuse; solids management; condition assessment and infrastructure management; energy efficiency; decentralized collection and treatment systems; risk assessment and communication; watershed management and water quality; and other emerging issues. Visit WERF's [website](#) for a list of ongoing, completed and planned research, as this will help proposers avoid duplication. Click [HERE](#) to access information or contact Senior Program Director Amit Pramanik at 571-384-2101 or apramanik@werf.org for additional information.

DOE Announces Rooftop Solar Challenge - \$12.5M Available

Letter of Intent Deadline: July 18, 2011

As part of the SunShot and the [Solar America Communities](#) Initiatives, DOE has announced a funding opportunity for a Rooftop Solar Challenge, with the goal of achieving measureable improvements in market conditions for rooftop photovoltaics across the United States. The emphasis of the Rooftop Solar Challenge is to streamline and standardize permitting and interconnection processes. DOE anticipates awarding up to \$12.5 M to up to 25 awardees. Regional teams of local governments are encouraged to apply. Deadline for a letter of intent: July 18, 2011; Deadline for application: August 31, 2011. For more information and a link to the full FOA, visit [DOE's Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy webpage](#).

NEA Grants for Arts Program

Deadline: August 11, 2011

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) is accepting applications for the *Art Works* project category in its Grants for Arts Program. Grants of up to \$100,000 will be awarded to states and local governments and non-profit

organizations for community-based projects seeking to achieve one or several of the following activities: creating art, engaging the public in art, learning in the arts, and strengthening of communities through the arts. A one to one non-federal match is required. Click [HERE](#) to access more information.

UPCOMINGEVENTS

NARC's 45th Annual Conference and Exhibition

June 13-15, 2011, San Diego, CA: Join us for the the largest national event focused on promoting effective regional cooperation and solutions through interaction and education. NARC's annual conference is the premier place to learn how to engage in effective regional collaboration. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

Rescheduled: International Trade Administration Conference Call: Attracting Investment to Your Region

Wednesday, June 15, 2011, 3:00pm ET

Note that the call described in last week's eRegions has been moved from June 1st to Wednesday, June 15th due to increased interest. Updated dial in and RSVP information is below. The U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) will host a conference call to help communities and regions across the country develop strategies to attract Chinese foreign direct investment (FDI) to their jurisdictions. Experts on FDI – including Craig Allen, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Asia in the Market Access and Compliance branch of DOC's International Trade Administration (ITA), and Christopher Clement, International Investment Specialist at Invest in America, U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service at ITA – will discuss trends and opportunities. Join the call by dialing 1-800-369-1157 and using passcode 9750925. Please RSVP to imartinez@eda.doc.gov with "RSVP" in the message body.

NHI Innovations: Transportation and Natural Resource Planning through Environmental GIS Tools

June 16, 2011, 2:30 – 4:00 pm ET: Join the NHI for this innovative web conference and hear how Texas and Maryland are pioneering GIS planning approaches for transportation to improve environmental outcomes and enhance project delivery. In each state, early collaborative planning among transportation and natural resource planning agencies have produced ecosystem-based frameworks to guide transportation decisions. The web conference will detail the benefits of using GIS tools for transportation and

natural resource planning, including data-driven decision support systems, early multi-agency integration and using the systems approach. To register click [HERE](#).

Freight Community to Share Best Practices on Advocating for Infrastructure Investment

June 21-23, 2011, Savannah, GA: Members of various freight-related organizations will gather to share information and best practices on how to effectively communicate the value of transportation infrastructure investment to policymakers, influencers and the public. The American Association of Port Authorities is sponsoring this seminar on *Communicating the Importance of Infrastructure Investment*. Featured key note speakers will include Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed, representing the Building America's Future coalition, who will address the topic of *Successfully Promoting the Infrastructure Investment Agenda*; as well as Former U.S. Senator Mack Francis Mattingly (R-GA 1981-87) who will address *Effectively Communicating with Key Legislators*. More information is available by clicking [HERE](#).

NLC's 19th Annual Leadership Summit

September 15 - 17, 2011, Minneapolis, MN: Join renowned leadership scholars and authors Dan Buettner, Lindsay Strand, John M. Bryson, Barbara C. Crosby, and John Luthy as you engage in a unique, reflective program that will help guide your work and leadership in local government. Insightful learning experiences will provide you the opportunity to reflect, recognize and discover what you can do to enhance your success as a local leader. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

2011 Executive Directors' Conference

September 18 - 21, 2011, Jacksonville, FL: Join Executive Directors and senior staff of regional councils and metropolitan planning organizations at this premier regional training event. Registration information and a draft agenda will be available soon.

ICMA Annual Conference

September 18 - 21, 2011, Milwaukee, WI: Join ICMA for this informative, innovative, and engaging 4-day professional development conference from September 18-21 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where the spectacular Lake Michigan shoreline serves as an ideal setting for ICMA's 97th Annual Conference: *Fresh Ideas and Fresh Water*. When you're facing layoffs, hiring freezes, budget cuts, and less revenue, you need the tools, tips, information, and resources offered by a high-quality, professional development

opportunity. That is why ICMA's 97th Annual Conference, the world's foremost event for local government managers and administrators, could be the most important professional development opportunity you participate in this year! Beginning June 1, you can reserve a hotel room and register online for **ICMA's 2011 Annual Conference**. Visit **<http://icma.org/conference2011>** for details and registration info and view the preliminary program **HERE**.

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

Add us to your address book

Copyright (C) 2011 National Association of Regional Councils All rights reserved.

Forward this email to a friend
Update your profile