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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

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**eRegions**

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**[PROGRAM UPDATE](#)** **[POLICY UPDATE](#)** **[REGIONS360<sup>o</sup>](#)**  
**[PARTNER UPDATE](#)** **[GRANT OPPORTUNITIES](#)** **[UPCOMING EVENTS](#)**

## **EXECUTIVE BRIEF**

Thank you to everyone who attended our 45th Annual Conference and Exhibition in San Diego. I especially want to thank our hosts – the San Diego Association of Governments and the Southern California Association of Governments, their board members, executive directors and staff – for making the conference a fantastic event. Our sponsors and partners played a significant role as well; I want to extend a special thanks to them for helping make our event possible.

Every year at the Annual Conference we hold elections for NARC Governing Board and Executive Directors Council (EDC) members. I'd like to acknowledge our outgoing Board and EDC members and thank them for their support and assistance over the years.

- **Hon. Patti Kay-Clapper**, Former Commissioner, Pitkin County, CO
- **Hon. Pat Norriss**, Commissioner, Wichita County, TX
- **Hon. Peggy Neely**, Councilwoman, City of Phoenix, AZ
- **Jiten Shah**, Executive Director, Green River Area Development

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**Erika Young**

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District

We also welcome new and returning Board and EDC members,  
especially our newly elected Board members and leadership:

- President: **Hon. Ron Morrison**, Mayor, National City, CA
- President Elect: **Hon. David Shafer**, Clerk-Treasurer, Town of Munster, IN
- Senior Vice President: **Hon. Penny Gross**, Supervisor, Fairfax County, VA
- Vice President / Chair: **Mark Policinski**, Executive Director, Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments
- District III: **Hon. Walter Tejada**, Board Member, Arlington County, VA
- District IV: **Hon. Jeff Carver**, Commissioner, Johnston County, NC
- District VI: **Hon. Kathy Chroback**, Mayor, City of LaPorte, IN
- At-Large: **Hon. Lonnie Hunt**, Judge, Houston County, TX
- Second Vice Chair: **Jim Hassinger**, Executive Director, Southwest Pennsylvania Commission

Our keynote speakers, sessions and evening events were well received and attended. Let's keep up the pace! I look forward to seeing you all next year in Florida for our 46th Annual Conference and Exhibition.

Best,  
Fred

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## PROGRAM UPDATE

### **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.

**U.S. Employment and Training Administration Released *Internet Links For State and Local Employment Projections*:** The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), Employment and Training Administration (ETA), Office of Workforce Investment has issued *Internet Links for State and Local Employment Projections*. Click [HERE](#) to access the website. Employment projections are the most frequently-requested type of workforce statistic besides the unemployment rate, and are sought after for economic development and other state or regional planning; as supporting documentation to apply for Federal grants; and for many other purposes. State and local employment projections are primarily funded by ETA, while national employment projections are produced by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). If you have questions, please contact Frank Gallo, U.S. DOL ETA at [Gallo.Frank@DOL.gov](mailto:Gallo.Frank@DOL.gov).

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## POLICYUPDATE

*The House and Senate are in session.*

**Agriculture Committees to Conduct Hearings:** The House Agriculture Committee is hosting hearings to examine Farm Bill programs and potential savings. This will help in the debt limit discussions, as well as policy platforms for a new Farm Bill. The current farm law (PL 110-246) expires next year. The Senate Agriculture Committee also is moving ahead with farm bill hearing starting this week.

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## PARTNERUPDATE

**NLC Column:** The National League of Cities (NLC) released its latest *Emerging Issues* column, "It's the Stupid Economy!" Click [HERE](#) to read the column.



**REGIONS360<sup>0</sup>**

**MORPC Releases New Video - "Rethinking Streets for Successful Communities":** Developed by the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning

Commission (MORPC), this video helps explain why there is a need to rethink the way streets are designed and used, keeping in mind that the type of redevelopment depends on the context and land use of the area. Implementing Complete Streets elements, and similar planning, can play a key role in ensuring successful communities. Click [HERE](#) to access the video.

**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 Request for Qualification (RFQ). Consultant Statement of Qualifications shall follow guidance provided in the RFQ found under the "WHAT's NEW" area on the following web site: [www.browardMPO.org](http://www.browardMPO.org).

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## GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

### **HUD Announces Advanced Notice of Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grants:**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced an Advance Notice of Requirements for HUD's FY 2011 Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program, which will provide an additional \$67 million for building sustainable communities throughout the country. The opportunity to apply for funding will soon be made available through a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) to be issued by HUD. Below is basic information concerning the competitive grant program.

*Eligible Entities:* Multi-jurisdictional and multi-sector partnerships, as well as regional consortia of state and local governments, metropolitan planning organizations, educational institutions, non-profit organizations and philanthropic organizations

*Funding Categories:*

1. Funds can be used to support the preparation of Regional Plans for Sustainable Development
2. Funds can be used to support efforts to modify existing regional plans so that they are in accordance with the Livability Principles, as well as to prepare execution plans for adopted regional plans and for predevelopment planning activities for catalytic projects

Click [HERE](#) to access the Advanced Notice of Requirements. Additional information on the grant program can be accessed at HUD's Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities [website](#). NARC will send out more information as it becomes available.

**Rural Energy Assistance Program: Energy Audit and Renewable Energy Development Assistance**

*Deadline: June 30, 2011*

The Rural Energy Assistance Program Energy Audit and Renewable Energy Development Assistance grant program is designed to assist farmers, ranchers, and rural small businesses, providing grants for energy audits and renewable energy development assistance. Eligible entities include units of state, tribal, or local government and their instrumentalities; institutions of higher education; rural electric cooperatives; or a public power entity. For more info, click [HERE](#) and refer to Sol# RDBCP-11-REAP-ENERGYAUDIT.

**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](#) for more information.

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

*Deadline: July 7, 2011*

The U.S. EDA, DOL 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](#) or additional information [HERE](#).

**DOL Offers Grant Program for Urban and Non-Urban Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP)**

*Deadline: July 8, 2011*

The purpose of the grant is to address two objectives: to provide services to assist in reintegrating homeless veterans into meaningful employment within the labor force, and to stimulate the development of effective service delivery systems that will address the complex problems facing homeless veterans. Up to \$300,000 for urban and \$200,000 for non-urban grants will be awarded. Click [HERE](#) for additional 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 FY 2011, 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 USDA 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**

*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](mailto: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, the U.S. Department of Energy (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. The U.S. DOE anticipates awarding up to \$12.5 M to up to 25 awardees. Regional teams of local governments are encouraged to apply. For more information and a link to the full FOA, visit [DOE's Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy webpage](#).

### **FY 2011 Susan Harwood Training Grants**

*Deadline: July 20, 2011*

The purpose of the grant is to provide training and educational programs for workers and/or employers. Eligible applicants include: non-profit organizations (qualifying trade associations, labor unions and community-based and faith-based organizations that are not an agency

of a state or local government. Eligible organizations can apply independently for funding or in partnership with other eligible organizations. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

#### **DOE's Rooftop Solar Challenge - \$12.5M Available**

*Letter of Intent Deadline: July 29; Application Deadline: August 31, 2011*

As part of the [SunShot Initiative](#) and the [Solar America Communities Initiative](#), DOE has announced a funding opportunity for a [Rooftop Solar Challenge](#), with the goal of achieving measurable 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. A series of webinars will be hosted by DOE to assist applicants:

- Webinar 1 - FOA Overview - 6/29/11, 2:00-3:30pm ET
- Webinar 2 - Permitting and Interconnection Processes Overview - 7/6/11, 2:00-3:30pm ET
- Webinar 3 - Net Metering and Interconnection Standards Overview - 7/13/11, 2:00-3:30pm ET
- Webinar 4 - Financing Options and Planning and Zoning Overview - 7/20/11, 2:00-3:30pm ET

DOE anticipates awarding up to \$12.5M to up to 25 awardees. Regional teams of local governments are encouraged to apply. For more information about the webinars, and a link to the full NOFA, visit <http://www.eere.energy.gov/solarchallenge/>.

#### **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.

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## **UPCOMINGEVENTS**



***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 more 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](#).

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