

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

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eRegions

NARCLEADERSHIP

President James Townsend,
Judge/Executive,
Webster County, KY
Chair Charles 'Chick' Krautler,
Executive Directors Council
Director, Atlanta Regional
Commission

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

Even though D.C. slows down this time of year, there are still some outstanding issues that NARC is closely tracking. We've been monitoring and working with Hill staff on the emergency appropriations that may or may not effect transportation funding. It's a complex issue related to proposed job creation stimulus spending, budget tactics, appropriations versus authorization authority and a looming Presidential veto. Erika Young has been diligent on this issue and will keep you informed.

Please continue to fill out the [Directory of Regions](#)! Sylvia Bryant can assist if you have questions and walk you through the process. We've gotten an overwhelming level of response and want to have the first iteration completed as soon as possible.

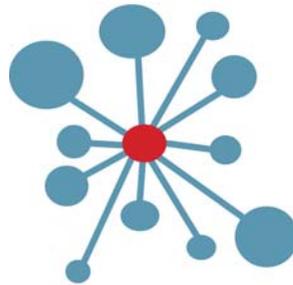
There are two upcoming webinars of importance:

NARC/ICLEI:

Shannon Menard will be leading a conversation, with ICLEI, about the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Sustainable Communities Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA).

NARC/Applied Geographics:

I, with Applied Geographics, will be leading a second webinar about



converge ■ learn ■ share

**executive directors' conference and
regional metropolitan and urban policy forum
september 27-30
austin, tx**

REGISTER TODAY!

HURRY—Early Bird Registration Ends on July 15th!

2010 Executive Directors' Conference: September 28-30, 2010

Join the Capital Area Council of Governments, Brazos Valley Council of Governments, Central Texas Council of Governments and NARC for the 2010 Executive Directors' Conference in Austin, TX. Bring yourself and your Deputy or Senior Staff to meet with experts, network with your colleagues and share best practices in management, programs, finance, budget, governance and other issues of importance to you.

Regional Metropolitan and Urban Policy Forum: September 27-28, 2010

Regional councils of all sizes have core cities and towns that are facing issues of growth, infrastructure, security and safety. This Forum will be a discussion on recent trends and opportunities in metropolitan policy for regions, and will address related federal, state, and local issues. Regions and partners will come together to discuss recent federal action on livability, transportation, climate change and other issues. The Forum is open to regional councils of all sizes. By registering for the Executive Directors' Conference you can attend at no additional cost.

Omni Austin Downtown Hotel—\$121/night

Click [HERE](#) to reserve your room online.

800-849-6664

(Please be sure to mention that you are reserving under NARC's room block.)

Click [HERE](#) to access the conference website, registration and hotel information.

Contact Lindsey Riley, lindsey@narc.org or 202.986.1032 x220 with questions.

DIRECTORY OF REGIONS

The **National Directory of Regions** survey was sent out via email to all Executive Directors. If your organization has not received this survey, click [HERE](#) for access. If you have any questions, please contact Sylvia Bryant, sylvia@narc.org or 202.986.1032.

NARC PROGRAM

NARC and ICLEI to Host Webinar on Sustainable Communities Grants. Join federal representatives from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) for a webinar on *Tuesday, July 13 from 2:00pm to 3:30pm EDT* to discuss the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFAs) for the Sustainable Communities Partnership-related grant opportunities totaling \$175M. This webinar will cover the [HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grants](#) at \$100M and the joint [HUD DOT](#)

I, with Applied Geographics, will be leading a second webinar about the HUD NOFA focusing specifically on how Geographic Information Systems (GIS) should be incorporated into your application.

Lindsey Riley will be in San Diego next week at the [ESRI Users Conference](#) on Wednesday and Thursday; if you are going to be there or sending staff make sure you touch base with her. If you haven't already done so, I would encourage you and your staff to join our **GIS Users Group**. Contact Lindsey or Jenee Kresge for additional details.

Jenee reports that we had a fantastic response to our Green Infrastructure **Regional Centers of Excellence** grant opportunity and we look forward to announcing the Centers soon. Naomi Friedman is also in the beginning stages of a **Climate Adaptation project** with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Additionally, we will be launching a few more projects towards the end of the year.

If you haven't already done so, I'd encourage you to register for our [2010 Executive Directors' Conference](#). A draft agenda will be available soon.

Summer cheers!
Fred

NARCSTAFF

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Project Director, x224

Jenee Kresge

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Policy Manager, x217

Lindsey Riley

Member Services Manager, x220

Erika Young

Transportation Director, x212

opportunities totaling \$175M. This webinar will cover the [HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grants](#) at \$100M; and the joint [HUD-DOT NOFA](#) for the HUD Communities Challenge Grants at \$40M and the DOT TIGER II Planning Grants at \$35M. Click [HERE](#) to register for the webinar. **NARC Members can attend at no charge by including "NARC Member" as their local government affiliation.**

NARC and Applied Geographics to Host Webinar on Integrating GIS Into HUD Sustainable Communities Grant Applications. Join us on *Wednesday, July 21 from 2:00pm to 3:00pm* to learn and discuss how Geographic Information Systems (GIS) tools can be successfully integrated into applications for the HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant. GIS technology and data are fundamental to the vision, development, implementation and evaluation of Regional Plans for Sustainable Development. This webinar will provide useful and timely information for regional planning organizations and local governments as they pursue the grant application process. Applied Geographics, a NARC Corporate Partner, will review the GIS and data requirements of the grant program, and describe ways to be innovative in the incorporation of GIS to improve your grant application. Click [HERE](#) to register. **NARC members can attend at no charge.**

EDA Accepting Applications for 2010 Innovation in Economic Development Awards. The Economic Development Administration (EDA) is accepting applications for its 2010 Innovation in Economic Development Awards to spotlight projects of national significance that advance innovation, boost competitiveness and create jobs. Entries will be accepted until August 27, 2010. The award categories are: Innovation in Regional Innovation Clusters (RICs); Innovation in Commercialization; Innovation in Global Export Promotion; and, Innovation in Green Technology. For more information on the 2010 Innovation in Economic Development Awards and how to apply click [HERE](#). The competition was previously known as the EDA Excellence in Economic Development Awards.

Smart Growth Leadership Institute Launch New Website Promoting Sustainable Communities. The Smart Growth Leadership Institute released a new website that tracks related grant opportunities, events, tools and information. Click [HERE](#) to visit the new site.

NARCPOLICY

The Senate will return from recess on Monday, July 12; the House will return from recess on Tuesday, July 13.

CBO Scores Senate Climate Change Bill. According to a report released by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), the American Power Act, the Kerry-Lieberman climate change bill, would reduce federal budget deficits by \$19 billion between 2011 and 2020. CBO also projected that government spending under the draft bill would rise by nearly \$732 billion during that same period with close to \$751 billion in new revenue, mostly raised by auctioning emissions allowances to polluters, to offset the additional spending. The CBO scored the House climate change bill (HR 2998) with \$9 billion in projected savings and \$21 billion from the previous Senate bill (S1733) respectively. Click [HERE](#) to access CBO's reporting on climate change.

Support Livable Communities: Both the House ([HR 4690](#)) and Senate ([S1619](#)) have bills supporting the regional role in building livable communities with their local governments. The legislation seeks to reinvigorate regional comprehensive planning and implementation for regions of all sizes and make ups. We urge all regional planning organizations and their boards of local elected officials to send letters of support to your Congressional delegation urging their endorsement by showcasing the on-the-ground benefits of this legislation for your region. Click [HERE](#) for a summary of the bills and click [HERE](#) for an FAQ. Click [HERE](#) to access a letter for your region to personalize. For more information or assistance with an

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

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

[HERE](#) for a summary of the bills and click [HERE](#) for an FAQ. Click [HERE](#) to access a letter for your region to personalize. For more information or assistance with an endorsement, please contact Shannon Menard at Shannon@NARC.org or 202.986.1032 x217.

Support RIIZs: [Regional Infrastructure Improvement Zones \(RIIZs\)](#) are an important tool for infrastructure financing. NARC continues to work on RIIZs in both chambers of Congress, as well as with members and association partners to raise awareness and support of this innovative public-private partnership concept. Click [HERE](#) for a RIIZ FAQ. If you are interested in sending a support letter to your Members of Congress, please click [HERE](#) for a draft letter. A draft support resolution is also available by clicking [HERE](#). For more information, please contact

PARTNERUPDATES

TARC Releases Two Requests for Proposals (RFPs): The Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) seeks contractors to assist regional councils and economic development districts (EDDs) with: development of a web-based or software-based application to aid in the development of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and required components of the CEDS; creation of an interactive website for the CEDS incorporating valuable geographic information systems (GIS) features with both ad hoc and standardized report-generating abilities that assist EDDs in responding to requests for information from 1) businesses/industry, 2) units of government, 3) site selectors, and 4) workforce development entities; development and acquisition by lease and/or out-right purchase of web-based economic development data tools and software-based applications that assist regional councils and economic development districts (EDDs) in responding to requests for information from 1) businesses/industry, 2) units of government, 3) site selectors, and 4) workforce development entities. The economic development data tools and/or applications must be sustainable and offer access to timely, accurate and relevant data such as socioeconomic, demographic, workforce, business/industry and industry cluster data and provide the ability conduct forecasts of this data. Click [HERE](#) to access the RFP for economic development data tools and applications; click [HERE](#) to access the RFP for CEDS development and interactive CEDS website design.

Local and Rural Road Safety Peer-to-Peer Program: Following on the success of other Peer-to-Peer Program, the U.S. Federal Highway Administration has launched the Local and Rural Road Safety Peer-to-Peer LRR Safety Program. FHWA established this new Peer-to-Peer (P2P) Program as a form of technical assistance for local and rural highway agencies to resolve safety problems on the roads they maintain. The LRR Safety P2P is a free volunteer-oriented program that will provide peer assistance through several venues. Assistance can be in the form of phone calls, email exchanges, general instruction or site visits depending on the agency's needs. Experts with knowledge in various local and rural road safety issues have volunteered their time to provide assistance to their peers requesting help. More information on this P2P program is available on the FHWA Safety website <http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/> or by clicking [HERE](#).



Community Impact Assessment (CIA) Practitioner's Network: The CIA Practitioner's Network will provide you with free email updates, such as TRB Newsletters, AASHTO Daily News, what is happening in EPA, NHI and NTI Courses being offered, questions from your contemporaries, the latest publications, and upcoming webinars; an opportunity to participate in a Practitioner conference call every other month with a focus topic of the Practitioners' choosing—notes are taken and shared if you cannot participate in the conference call; and an opportunity to ask practitioners about relevant transportation issues. If you would like to join this web-based network, please contact FHWA's Brenda Kragh at 202-366-2064 or Brenda.Kragh@dot.gov.

The APCO Institute Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) Program. Comprehensive. Customized. Cost-Effective: The public expects 9-1-1 telecommunicators to be prepared for the unexpected. **Are yours?** Give your staff the essential tool for effective response to critical situations—The [APCO Institute Emergency Medical Dispatch Program](#). With in person and online training opportunities, your personnel will be certified to present the EMD course within your agency and begin using customized EMD Guidecards and/or APCO's customized software program. Click [HERE](#) to learn more. For questions, contact: APCO Institute at institute@apco911.org or call (888) 272-6911.



GRANTOPPORTUNITIES

SBA Announces Funding Available to Support Regional Clusters, Job Creation: The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) announced the availability of funding to support economic development and job creation through existing regional

(SBA) announced the availability of funding to support economic development and job creation through existing regional clusters. As part of its Regional Cluster Initiative, SBA will accept proposals from local and regional cluster initiatives beginning July 7 for funding of up to \$600,000 per cluster to support up to 15 projects across the country. Proposals should be submitted by the cluster's coordinating entity. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

EDA i6 Challenge: *Deadline: July 15, 2010.* The **i6 Challenge** is a new \$12 million innovation competition administered by the Economic Development Administration (EDA) of the U.S. Department of Commerce, in partnership with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and National Science Foundation (NSF). EDA will award up to \$1 million to each of six winning teams with the most innovative ideas to drive technology commercialization and entrepreneurship in their regions. NIH and NSF will award a total of up to \$6M in additional funding to their Small Business Innovation Research grantees associated with winning teams. Click [HERE](#) for more information or email i6@doc.gov.

EPA Climate Showcase Communities Grants Available: *Deadline: July 26, 2010.* The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is making available up to \$10 million in grants to local governments (including councils of governments and regional or interstate entities) to establish and carry out initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Approximately 25 cooperative agreements are expected to be funded through the Climate Showcase Communities program, ranging between \$100,000 to \$500,000 with a required 50 percent cost share. Proposed projects should create sustainable community actions that can be used elsewhere, generate cost-effective greenhouse gas reductions and improve the environmental, economic, public health, and social conditions in a community. This is the second round of funding administered by EPA's Local Climate and Energy Program for the Climate Showcase Communities program. Additional information on the grant program and application process is available [HERE](#) and at www.grants.gov.

U.S. DOT and HUD Joint Effort Combines TIGER II and HUD Sustainable Communities Challenge Grant Initiatives: *Deadline: July 26, 2010.* U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced a groundbreaking collaborative effort designed to help foster planning for more livable, sustainable communities – places where transportation, housing and commercial development investments are coordinated to better serve the people living in those communities. Together, for the first time ever, will join forces to award up to \$75 million in funding – \$35 million in TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) II Planning Grants and \$40 million in Sustainable Community Challenge Grants for localized planning activities that ultimately lead to projects that integrate transportation, housing and economic development. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

HUD Released the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program NOFA: *Deadline: August 23, 2010.* Click [HERE](#) to access the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) and related information. Below is a brief summary of key points of the funding. A complete review will be provided by NARC in the coming days. Approximately \$98 million will be made available through this NOFA in the form of Cooperative Agreements. The program will support two funding categories – (1) Creation of Regional Plans for Sustainable Development, and (2) Detailed Execution Plans and Programs. Awards will be based on regional population and geographic boundaries, and categorized as either Large Metropolitan Regions (500,000 population or more); Medium-Sized Regions (200,000 to 499,999 population); or Small-Sized Regions, Rural Communities, and Small Town Areas (200,000 population or less). Click [HERE](#) to access NARC's recent Membership Alert with additional information.

USDA Announces Hunger-Free Communities Grants: *Deadline: September 1, 2010.* The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) this week released a request for proposals for Hunger-Free Communities grants, which invest in research, planning, and various hunger relief activities to help end hunger in America. The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, also known as the Farm Bill, authorizes \$5 million in funding to deliver help to Americans in need. Through the grants, USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) seeks strategies that support the creation of Hunger-Free Communities by funding activities including food distribution, community outreach, resource development and other methods to make food more accessible to those most in need. The program includes Planning and Assessment Grants (\$1 million) to evaluate food insecurity in communities and develop strategies to become hunger-free and Implementation Grants (\$4 million) for communities that already have a plan to end hunger and need resources for program implementation. Additional information about the grants and the application process is available [HERE](#) and at www.grants.gov.

EDA Announcement of Funding Opportunity for Public Works Infrastructure Improvements and Planning: *Deadline: September 30, 2010.* EDA will provide Public Works investments to support the construction or rehabilitation of essential public infrastructure and facilities necessary to generate or retain private sector jobs and investments, attract private sector capital, and promote regional competitiveness, innovation, and entrepreneurship, including investments that expand and upgrade infrastructure to attract new industry, support technology-led development, accelerate new business development, and enhance the ability of regions to capitalize on opportunities presented by free trade. EDA encourages recipients to be sensitive to the energy and environmental implications of their activities. To the extent practicable, and dependent upon the project type and in consideration of the financial resources available, EDA encourages recipients to use the best available strategies, technologies, and construction practices in order to minimize energy use and environmental impacts. Recipients are

technologies, and construction practices in order to minimize energy use and environmental impacts. Recipients are encouraged to determine the project's consistency with the Climate Action Plan of the State in which the proposed project will be located, if applicable. Additional details and a link to the announcement are available by clicking [HERE](#).

UPCOMINGEVENTS

July 13, Webinar, 2:00-3:30pm: NARC and ICLEI to Host Webinar on Sustainable Communities Grants. Join federal representatives from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to discuss the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFAs) for the Sustainable Communities Partnership-related grant opportunities totaling \$175M. This webinar will cover the [HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grants](#) at \$100M; and the joint [HUD-DOT NOFA](#) for the HUD Communities Challenge Grants at \$40M and the DOT TIGER II Planning Grants at \$35M. Click [HERE](#) to register for the webinar. ***NARC Members can attend at no charge by including "NARC Member" as their local government affiliation.***

July 21, Webinar, 2:00-3:00pm: NARC and Applied Geographics to Host Webinar on Integrating Geographic Information Systems (GIS) into U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Sustainable Communities Grant Applications. Learn and discuss how GIS tools can be successfully integrated into applications for the HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant. GIS technology and data are fundamental to the vision, development, implementation and evaluation of Regional Plans for Sustainable Development. This webinar will provide useful and timely information for regional planning organizations and local governments as they pursue the grant application process. Applied Geographics, a NARC Corporate Partner, will review the GIS and data requirements of the grant program, and describe ways to be innovative in the incorporation of GIS to improve your grant application. Click [HERE](#) to register. ***NARC Members can attend at no charge.***

July 21, Webinar, 12:00-1:15pm: CTAA's Joblinks Transportation Center and the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR), University of South Florida, is offering two webinars to introduce the On the Map and Help Wanted Online. These user friendly tools are sponsored by the Census Bureau and the Conference Board respectively. For additional information, click [HERE](#); to register click [HERE](#).

July 28, August 3 and 10, Webinar Series, 1:00-4:00pm ET: NARC and ESRI, with support from the Federal Geographic Data Committee, will hold a 3-part webinar series on collecting and creating accurate and appropriate metadata, a critical component of any local or regional geographic information systems program. Click [HERE](#) for a flyer with more information and click [HERE](#) to register. There is no cost to attend this webinar series.

August 4 Webinar, 12:00-1:15pm: CTAA's Joblinks Transportation Center and the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR), University of South Florida, is offering two webinars to introduce the On the Map and Help Wanted Online. These user friendly tools are sponsored by the Census Bureau and the Conference Board respectively. For additional information, click [HERE](#); to register click [HERE](#).

September 22-24, Williamsburg, VA: The 12th National "Tools of the Trade" Conference will be held at the Crowne Plaza at Fort Magruder in Historic Williamsburg. The preliminary program for the conference is posted on the TRB Committee [website](#) or on [Facebook](#). Registration is available by clicking [HERE](#). The conference will include informational sessions about ready-to-use, economical and practical techniques for transportation professionals in small (under 50,000) and medium-sized (50,000 - 250,000) communities. Advance registration is only \$200.00 and includes most meals and the group outing in Colonial Williamsburg on Thursday night during the Conference.

September 27-30, Austin, TX: NARC, the Capital Area Council of Governments, Brazos Valley Council of Governments, and Central Texas Council of Governments will host the 2010 Executive Directors' Conference and Regional Metropolitan and Urban Policy Forum. Full conference details are available on the conference website, available by clicking [HERE](#).

BUILDING REGIONAL COMMUNITIES – LARGE, SMALL, URBAN AND RURAL – THROUGH ADVOCACY, EDUCATION AND TRAINING

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