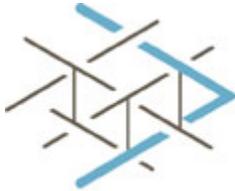


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## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

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# eRegions

### NARC LEADERSHIP

**President Ron Morrison,**  
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**Chair Mark Policinski,**  
Executive Directors  
Council  
Executive Director,  
Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana  
Regional Council of  
Governments

### EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

This week Congress and the Administration stalled on debt discussions. The impact of these stalled discussions (potentially effecting our national financial stability) also shifts the legislative and policy calendars and how much time can be

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



*converge ■ learn ■ share*

**executive directors' conference**  
**september 18-21, 2011**  
**jacksonville, fl**

**REGISTER TODAY!**

### ***2011 Executive Directors' Conference: Call for Sessions***

We're building the agenda for the upcoming conference - and want your input. Click [HERE](#) to access the *Call for Sessions* and let us know what sessions you'd like to see in Jacksonville. Deadline to submit your ideas is July 15th. For more information or to register for the event, click [HERE](#).

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## PROGRAM UPDATE

**HUD Choice Neighborhoods Listening Session:** As the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Choice Neighborhoods program

spent the rest of the year on other legislation – transportation authorization or EDA, for example. The policy positions of the House and Senate vary, as do the priority of finalizing bills. There is \$200 billion and a four year length gap in positions between the two on transportation, as well as a split on the speed and priority of floor action and amendments on EDA authorization. Both pieces of legislation are also weighed down in 2012 election politics. The likelihood of these authorizations being completed this year, given the multitude of obstacles, is slim. But we are hopeful we can help the Senate and House bridge gaps and find common ground on core issues of importance to regions and local governments, such as funding, regional planning and programming, and streamlining. This month we will be discussing these issues in-depth, through webinars, member briefs and additional email communications – stay tuned.

expands throughout the country, HUD is seeking stakeholder input to make the program stronger and more responsive to a community's needs. HUD is seeking input on how to improve the Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant NOFA at the Choice Neighborhoods Listening Session and will accept comments by [email](#). Additional information on how to submit comments is available [HERE](#) and information on the listening session scheduled for July 15, 2011 in Washington, DC can be found [HERE](#).

**Clean Coalition Announces Local CLEAN Program Guide:** Help your communities and utilities evaluate, design, and enact the most effective policies for the timely and cost-effective deployment of clean local energy with a free, downloadable copy of the [Local CLEAN Program Guide](#).

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## POLICYUPDATE

*The Senate and House are in session.*

**Rollout of House Transportation Reauthorization Proposal:** On Thursday, July 7, 2011, the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure held a national briefing to roll out a comprehensive, multi-year transportation reauthorization proposal. NARC will be providing additional information about how this proposal will impact NARC members through email communications and a webinar scheduled for tomorrow, Tuesday, July 12, 2011 at 12:00pm ET. Click [HERE](#) to register for this webinar.

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## PARTNERUPDATE

**NLC Column:** The National League of Cities (NLC) released it's latest *Emerging Issues* column, "Closing the Regional Disconnect" Click [HERE](#) to read the column.

**ICMA Annual Conference:** Don't Miss the Early Registration Discount! Early birds save the most - Take advantage of an early registration discount when you sign up for the ICMA Annual Conference by July 11th. The ICMA 97th Annual Conference will be held September 18-21 at the Frontier Airlines Center in Milwaukee, WI. Register early to get your choice of workshops, tours, and events. ICMA members apply your e-debit card and save more! Visit ICMA's website at [icma.org/conference](http://icma.org/conference) for conference program details

NARC is looking for a few good sessions! If you have an idea or process to share with your fellow Executive Directors at our upcoming Executive Directors' Conference, please submit them to us. We want to know what's important to you and what others can learn from. The Executive Directors' Conference is a training event for Executive Directors and senior staff from regional and metropolitan planning organizations, with sessions focused on, but not limited to, management or program best practices, communications and budgeting, governance, technology, and/or staffing and outreach. We look forward to seeing you in Jacksonville.

Best,  
Fred

**NARCSTAFF**

**Fred Abousleman**

Executive Director

**Shannon Baxevanis**

Deputy Director

**Sylvia Bryant**

Office Manager

and to register.

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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.

### **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

**Mia Colson**

Program Analyst

**Kristin Heery**

Program Analyst

**Jenee Kresge**

Economic and

Community

Development Manager

**Lindsey Riley**

Deputy of

Communications

**Erika Young**

Transportation Director

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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.

**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 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. A series of webinars will be hosted by DOE to assist applicants:

- 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/>.

***USDA Announces Rural Business Opportunity Grants***

**Deadline: August 1, 2011**

On Friday, July 1, USDA announced the availability of funding for its Rural Business Opportunity Grants program (RBOG). RBOG supports projects up to two years in length that promote sustainable economic development in rural areas that are experiencing natural disasters, persistent poverty, or a decline in employment or population. Nonprofit corporations, public bodies, Indian Tribes, and cooperatives whose members are primarily rural residents may apply for up to \$50,000 for a project in one state, or for up to \$150,000 for a multi-state application. Access the grant by clicking [HERE](#).

***HUD Announces Choice Neighborhood Initiative Planning Grant Opportunity***

**Deadline: August 8, 2011**

HUD has issued a NOFA for the Choice Neighborhood Initiative Planning Grants to Public Housing Authorities (PHAs), local governments, nonprofits, and for-profit developers that apply jointly with a public entity. The program is focused on directing resources to address three core goals of transforming housing and neighborhoods while supporting positive outcomes for people and their families. To access additional information, click [HERE](#).

***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.

***DOT Announces Interim Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for TIGER Grants***

*Preliminary Application Deadline: August 22, 2011*

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) announced the availability to issue \$527 million for TIGER grants, a competitive grant program, which funds innovative transportation projects that address job creation and making a significant impact on the nation, a region or a metropolitan area.

Preliminary applications are due from August 22 through October 3, with final

applications due between October 4 and October 31. DOT will host a half-day seminar and Webcast from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Monday, July 18, to provide guidance for applicants. Click [HERE](#) for more information on the notice and upcoming information on the grants.

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## UPCOMINGEVENTS

### ***REMI Webinar: Estimate of the Economic Impacts of Single and Multiple Port Closures***

**July 13, 2011, 2:00 pm ET:** Regional Economic Models, Inc. (REMI) offers a webinar presented by Mark Gerner and Jennifer Li, Associates at Booz Allen Hamilton. Booz Allen will be presenting an analysis measuring the projected economic impact of separate and simultaneous maritime closures at 10 domestic U.S. ports. In addition to impacts on U.S. GDP and employment, Booz Allen projected the marginal increase between 60 day closures and the baseline established by a 30 day closure at the 60 day mark for each of the 10 ports analyzed. Expanding on the magnitude of economic consequences stemming from port closures, calculating the marginal increase allowed Booz Allen to project the so called “bend in the curve” associated with timeliness of the response at each location. There will be no charge via the WebEx Internet Conferencing System. Advanced registration is required; please click [HERE](#) to register.

### ***Hunger Free Communities Program Webinar***

**July 13, 2011, 2:00 pm ET:** The Hunger Free Communities Network was recently launched and is having its rollout webinar on July 13 at 2pm EDT. To access the website, click [HERE](#). The network is a web-based, nationwide wide platform for those committed to ending hunger at a local level. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Alliance to End Hunger, Corporate Hunger Coalition, and local and state-wide anti-hunger leaders from across the country will discuss the vision for this new resource, demonstrate some of its key features, and answer your questions. To register for this opening webinar, click [HERE](#).

### ***TIGER Grant Webinar: Lessons on How to Compete for a U.S. DOT TIGER Grant***

**July 18, 2011, 1:00-4:00 pm ET:** Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

### ***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.

***2011 Ohio Freight Conference***

**September 20-21, 2011, Toledo, OH:** SAVE THE DATE! This is the fifth year for the conference that brings together transportation professionals to focus on the movement of goods through Ohio and the Great Lakes region. It is a unique opportunity for dialog and exchange of information between all modes: rail, ground, pipeline, air and sea. For more information or to register, click [HERE](#).

***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, 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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