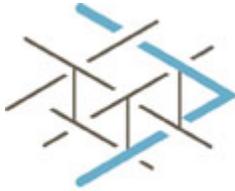


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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

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eRegions

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

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EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

This week I am in Boise, ID visiting the Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) presenting, to their Board and partners, an update on NARC priorities and Congressional and

Draft Agenda to be Released This Week

Join the Northeast Florida Regional Council and NARC for the 2011 Executive Directors' Conference in Jacksonville, FL. Executive Directors and senior staff are invited 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. For more information or to register for the event, click [HERE](#).

PROGRAM UPDATE

Administration activity. COMPASS is the host of our 2012 Executive Directors' Conference.

NARC, the Northeast Florida Regional Council and NARC Leadership, are busy setting the agenda for our 2011 Executive Directors' Conference in Jacksonville, FL. You'll see an agenda, including session details, from us later this week. As the premier training event for Executive Directors and senior staff, the agenda will focus on issues of governance, management and best practices. Register today – we look forward to seeing you in Jacksonville.

Best,
Fred

NARCSTAFF

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Public Comment Open on New Sustainability Rating System: The Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure (ISI), a not-for-profit organization founded in January 2011 through contributions from three national organizations: the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC), the American Public Works Association (APWA) and the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), has released, *envision*, a sustainable infrastructure project rating system that is currently open for public comment. These comments will be received and incorporated into the system through the end of 2011, making it operational in 2012. This system is designed to evaluate, grade and give recognition to infrastructure projects that make exemplary progress and contributions to a more sustainable future. Its purpose is to foster a necessary and dramatic improvement in the performance and resiliency of our physical infrastructure across the full dimensions of sustainability. These improvements are graded not only by individual project performance, but by how well those projects contribute to the resiliency and long-term sustainability of the cities or communities they are intended to serve. Once operational, awards will be made to infrastructure projects that achieve high scores, assessed and verified by accredited individuals. Additionally, an accreditation program for professionals will be established. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

POLICYUPDATE

The Senate and House are in session.

HUD Conference Call on FY12 Budget Priorities: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is hosting a conference call on Wednesday, July 20th from 3:00-4:00 pm ET conducted by Deputy Secretary Ron Sims to provide a briefing on HUD FY12 budget priorities including an update on HOME, Housing Counseling, Choice Neighborhoods, Sustainable Communities grants and recent NOFA (Notice of Funding Availability) announcements. Call in number is (800) 230-1096; Conference ID: 210409. Please RSVP to Tom Kelly at Tom.L.Kelly@hud.gov by July 18th COB.

House Passes Flood Insurance Reauthorization: Last week the House passed HR 1309, the Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2011, which would reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) for five years, through September 2016. It would give authority to temporarily suspend mandatory purchase requirements for those in special flood hazard areas, and provide a five-year phase-in of flood insurance rates for newly mapped

Economic and
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areas. Local governments may also request up to two extensions each covering up to 12 months.

PARTNERUPDATE

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 for conference program details and to register.

Regional Excellence: *Measuring Regional Excellence.* Former NARC Executive Director Bill Dodge authors this column and can be reached at WilliamRDodge@aol.com. Please review this *Regional Excellence* column and share your thoughts with Bill Dodge for measures of regional excellence in these programs and suggestions for their implementation. Your thoughts and suggestions are especially welcome before a mid-August meeting of the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) panel for this project. Click [HERE](#) to access the column.

Brookings Releases Green Jobs Report and Data: The Brookings Institute's Metropolitan Policy Program released "Sizing the Clean Economy: A National and Regional Green Jobs Assessment" last week. The report, available [HERE](#), identifies key economic, industrial and regional trends in the sphere of green jobs and the nation's economy. Data used to develop the report, as well as an interactive map, are available for download [HERE](#), in the box labeled "Resources".

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.

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 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.

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.

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](#).

Innovative Solutions for Solar Financing Webinar

September 27, 2011, 2:00pm ET: Join the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) for a [Solar America Communities Program](#) webinar on solar financing. Learn from Sonoma County, California and the Joint Venture Silicon Valley Network as they detail their efforts to overcome major barriers to adopting solar technologies in their region. Speakers will include Sam Ruark, Sonoma County Energy Watch Program Manager, Rachel Solomon Massaro, Associate Director of Climate Initiatives with Joint Venture Silicon Valley Network and Ben Foster, VP of Operations for Optony, Inc. Advanced registration is required; please click [HERE](#) to register.

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