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eRegions

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EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

So much has happened this week in DC and so much hasn't. Congress and the President have reached a debt ceiling deal and debt reduction plan which passed the House yesterday and expected to pass the Senate today. Over \$2

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

REGISTER TODAY!

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

Opportunity to Comment on Strong Cities, Strong Communities Pilot

trillion will be cut from Federal spending. According to Congressional Quarterly, “the measure will set discretionary spending caps of \$1.043 trillion for fiscal 2012 and \$1.047 trillion for fiscal 2013.... If Congress does not enact at least \$1.2 trillion in deficit reduction, a “sequestration” budget process would be triggered to cut the difference from the federal budget; for example, if Congress enacted \$800 billion in deficit reduction, another \$400 billion would be sequestered”. The question remains to be answered about which core programs will be cut.

Meanwhile, “almost 200 capital projects at airports have been stopped or cut back, contractors are being told not to report to job sites and more than 3,500 FAA employees have been furloughed (FAA hasn’t been reauthorized)... (and) the Treasury is losing \$25 million to \$30 million in tax revenue each day,” DOT Secretary

Challenge Funding

Deadline for Comments: August 9, 2011

The Administration has requested public comments on the structure of the **Strong Cities, Strong Communities** (SC2) Pilot Challenge, which will offer \$6 million funding via the Economic Development Administration’s Economic Adjustment Assistance program for six cities to develop and implement comprehensive economic development strategic plans on land-use, infrastructure and economic and social resources. The full Federal Register entry requesting comments is available **HERE**. This is an opportunity for individual members, as well as NARC, to submit comments. Please continue to send **Jenee Kresge** any recommendations for general comments NARC can submit on behalf of its membership.

USDA’s Atlas of Rural and Small Town America Updated: Data from the 2010 Census was recently incorporated into the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s **Atlas of Rural and Small Town America**. The mapping application provides data on people, jobs, agriculture and county classifications at the county level across the U.S.

POLICYUPDATE

The Senate is in session; the House is in recess.

Assistant Secretary Fernandez Testifies in House Subcommittee: U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development John Fernandez testified before the U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure’s Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Works, and Emergency Management on Wednesday, July 27th. Assistant Secretary Fernandez focused on the Economic Development Administration’s (EDA) investments supporting the entrepreneurs and small businesses, as well as EDA’s unique role disseminating bottom-up strategies for regional economic growth. Access the full text of Assistant Secretary Fernandez’ full testimony **HERE** or access the full hearing video and additional testimonies **HERE**.

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

LaHood stated last week. NACO, NLC, USCM have called for a clean extension of the bill promptly. Essential Air Service and labor regulations still stall the discussions. It now looks like other authorizations (EDA and Surface Transportation) will be pushed further back, if brought up at all, with fewer available days of congressional floor time left this year. Congress has to complete the remaining Appropriations bills and 2012 budget. The House is now in August recess.

NARC is also happy to announce the successful completion of the 2010 Regional Centers of Excellence in Green Infrastructure Project with awardees – the Houston-Galveston Area Council in Houston, TX and the Land-of-Sky Regional Council in Asheville, NC. Stay tuned for the published final reports on NARC's website. This program provides small grants to regions to support development, outreach and communications in Green Infrastructure.

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.

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.

HUD Announces Choice Neighborhood Initiative Planning Grant Opportunity

Deadline: August 8, 2011

HUD has issued a NOFA for the Choice Neighborhood Initiative Planning

Best,
Fred

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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.

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

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. 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/>.

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.

2011 Water Resources Summit

October 25, 2011, College Park, MD: Join the Horinko Group for the Second Annual Water Resources Summit, hosted on the campus of the University of Maryland. The topic of this year's summit is *Sustaining Our Nation's Water Resources: Answering the Call for Stewardship*. The summit will focus on three areas: Water Governance, Water Advocacy, and the Business of Water and will feature speakers from the public, advocacy and the business sector. Topics include the recent efforts to integrate water resource planning and management and the incremental advantages of adaptive management and system thinking; what organizations are doing to promote social learning and better inform citizens of the importance of water conservation; and new water conservation strategies that tackle infrastructure and compliance challenges. To view the full agenda and register, please click [HERE](#).

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