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## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

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# eRegions

### NARC LEADERSHIP

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

### EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

The rumors of deeper agency cuts in D.C. last week turned out to be true. The White House directed federal departments and agencies to cut 2013 budget requests as much as 10 percent below current

[PROGRAM UPDATE](#) [POLICY UPDATE](#) [REGION 360](#)  
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[UPCOMING EVENTS](#)



*converge ■ learn ■ share*

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

**REGISTER TODAY!**

**Draft Agenda Available.** 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. Confirmed Keynote Speakers include:

- **Hon. Corrine Brown**, U.S. House of Representatives, Ranking Member, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials
- **Hon. Shelley Poticha**, Director of Sustainable Housing and

levels. The White House wants to spend more on critical programs. Furthermore, with only 42 days of spending authority remaining for most federal departments and agencies this year, House Appropriations Chairman Harold Rogers said he wants all fiscal 2012 spending bills finished "as soon as possible," according to CQ. To reach this goal, he blessed the overall cap of \$1.043 trillion for discretionary appropriations established by the recently passed debt ceiling agreement.

Congressional leaders are also working to ensure a clean extension of SAFETEA-LU. Lawmakers have until September 30th to authorize the collection of gas tax revenue and keep projects on track. Otherwise millions in revenue and thousands of jobs will be lost. Please click [HERE](#) and let us know how this would affect your organization.

We have confirmed two major speakers for the upcoming Executive

Communities, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

For more information, to access the draft agenda or to register for the conference, click [HERE](#).

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## PROGRAM UPDATE

**Solar Survey:** The International City/County Management Association (ICMA) is conducting a solar survey of local governments to collect data on what local governments are doing related to the adoption of solar energy. The survey was sent to the Chief Elected or Appointed Official of all city- and county- type local governments with a population of 2,500 or above and can also be completed online (the URL and your jurisdiction's unique 6-digit identifier are provided on the paper survey and can also be obtained by emailing [solar@icma.org](mailto:solar@icma.org)). Please complete and return the survey, which will provide ICMA with important information it needs to support local governments and their solar initiatives. If you have questions about the survey, please email [solar@icma.org](mailto:solar@icma.org).

**FHA Loan Limit Update:** On October 1, 2011, the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) will implement new single-family loan limits as specified in the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 (HERA). As a result, FHA will reduce loan limits in the highest cost metropolitan areas of the country while limits would remain unchanged in most other parts of the nation. Please click [HERE](#) to access the mortgagee letter. FHA will reduce loan limits in the highest cost metropolitan areas of the country while limits would remain unchanged in most other parts of the nation. The change in FHA loan limits will affect 669 counties across the country, out of a total of 3,234 jurisdictions in which FHA insures home loans.

**National Climate Assessment Request for Information:** The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has issued a request for information, inviting the public to provide comments and expressions of interest in offering technical inputs or assessment capacity on topics related to the National Climate Assessment. Expressions of interest are due by October 1, 2011, and final inputs are due by March 1, 2012. Click [HERE](#) to access the Federal Register Notice for a detailed timeline and more information. Additional supplementary material, including "Potential Technical Inputs and Assessment Capacities and Suggested Best Practices," can be

Directors' Conference in Jacksonville:  
Congresswoman Corrine Brown and Hon. Shelly Poticha, U.S. Housing and Urban Development. We expect a positive response from CSX to discuss national freight issues and from the Jacksonville Naval Base to address attendees. Along with great sessions on partnering across jurisdictions and the legal responsibilities of Social Media, the agenda for this event is robust. Please make your plans to join your colleagues in September.

Best,  
Fred

## **NARCSTAFF**

### **Fred Abouseman**

Executive Director

### **Shannon Baxevanis**

Deputy Director

### **Mia Colson**

Program Analyst

### **Kristin Heery**

Program Analyst

### **Jenee Kresge**

Economic and  
Community

Development Manager

### **Lindsey Riley**

found by clicking [HERE](#).

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## **POLICYUPDATE**

*Congress is in recess for the month of August, but will conduct pro forma sessions. Legislative activity will resume after Labor Day.*

Please see the Executive Brief for this week's update.

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## **PARTNERUPDATE**

**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.

### **Solar America Communities Events at ICMA's Annual Conference**

- **Solar Workshop** – Sunday, September 18, 8:30-12:30 – Learn important concepts related to local solar installations, including technologies, costs, and barriers.
- **Solar Powering Your Community Session** – Monday, September 19, 9:45-11:00 – Attend this panel session to hear how local governments can address the challenges of implementing solar.
- **Milwaukee Shines Solar Tour** – FREE! Monday, September 19, 12:30-1:30 or Tuesday, September 20, 4:00-5:00 – Visit Milwaukee Public Library's solar installations and green roof.

Deputy of  
Communications

**Erika Young**

Transportation Director

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## REGIONS360

**COMPASS Seeking Services to Provide Economic Benefit(s) Tools:** The Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) is seeking consulting services to provide an economic benefits tool(s) to evaluate a broad range of infrastructure investments as part of an update to the regional long-range transportation plan, *Communities in Motion 2035*. This update process is currently underway and will conclude the summer of 2014. COMPASS is the Metropolitan Planning Organization for Ada and Canyon Counties, Idaho. To download a copy of the Request for Qualifications/Proposals please [click HERE](#). **Proposals must be received by COMPASS before 1:00 pm MT Friday, September 9, 2011.**

**Tools of the Trade Conference:** A call for abstracts has been released for the 2012 Tools of the Trade Conference. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

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## GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

### **HUD NOFA for Communities Regional Planning Grants**

*Deadline: August 25, 2011*

The U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Donovan announced the availability of \$95 million to support sustainable local initiatives through the FY 2011 Regional Planning and Community Challenge Planning Grant Programs from HUD's Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities. Awarded competitively, both programs work to expand housing choices, improve connections between employment centers and homes, and reduce barriers to achieving affordable, economically vital and sustainable communities. Click [HERE](#) to access the press release and [HERE](#) for additional information about the program.

### **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/>.

**DOC Economic Development Administration Public Works, Economic Adjustment, and Global Climate Change Mitigation Programs Opportunity**

*Deadline: September 1, 2011*

This grant program supports projects that foster economic competitiveness while enhancing environmental quality. The funds will be used to advance the green economy by supporting projects that create jobs through—and increase—private capital investment in initiatives to limit the nation's dependence on fossil fuels, enhance energy efficiency, curb greenhouse gas emissions, and protect natural systems. Available funding is likely to be near \$25 million. For more info, including regional contacts, click [HERE](#). Eligible entities include state and local governments, federally recognized tribes, nonprofits and private institutions of higher education.

**Climate Solutions University: Forest and Water Strategies - Scholarships Available**

*Deadline: September 9, 2011*

The Model Forest Policy Program (MFPP) is now accepting applications for 2012 [\*\*\*Climate Solutions University: Forest and Water Strategies\*\*\*](#) (CSU). This program offers rural U.S. [only] communities the opportunity to be part of climate adaptation solutions urgently needed across the country. Six communities will be provided \$10,000 scholarships. Local communities are on the front line making key land use decisions in regards to climate change. Climate Solutions University (CSU) helps rural communities design and implement climate adaptation plans that protect local forest and water resources and support viable rural economies. Through a peer learning network that links underserved rural communities across the U.S., Climate Solutions University (CSU) provides training, expertise, and support to communities engaged in climate adaptation planning. CSU strengthens local leadership and public engagement and promotes the following outcomes: protection of forests, streams, human and ecological health, preservation of natural resource based economies, and builds broad public support. Additional information is available at [www.mfpp.org](http://www.mfpp.org).

**HUD Community Challenge Planning Grants**

*Deadline: September 9, 2011*

This competitive funding opportunity from for state, local and tribal governments will support efforts that foster reform and reduce barriers to

achieving affordable, economically vital and sustainable communities. HUD's Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities has provided the following additional resources to assist applicants in developing their proposals. These resources are available at [www.hud.gov/sustainability](http://www.hud.gov/sustainability) under the "Community Challenge Program" link.

- [Archived Webcast](#) and [Webcast Slides](#)
- [Updated Frequently Asked Questions Document](#)
- [FY2011 Community Challenge NOFA](#)
- [HUD's General Section](#)

#### **AARP Foundation Grants**

*Letter of Inquiry: September 15, 2011; Proposals Due: October 15, 2011*

AARP Foundation is seeking to fund the development or scaling of innovative, sustainable solutions to hunger that have the potential to make a significant impact on community food security and sustainable food systems for Americans 50 and older. Through a competitive RFP process, AARP Foundation will award grants to eligible local, state and/or national registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations in the United States, in amounts ranging from \$50,000 to \$300,000. Grants will be awarded under the AARP Foundation Sustainable Solutions to Hunger Innovation Grants Program. For more information about this funding opportunity, please visit:

[www.aarp.org/hungergrants](http://www.aarp.org/hungergrants).

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## **UPCOMINGEVENTS**

#### ***EDA Webinar: Rural Small Business Development***

**August 26, 2011, 2:00-5:00pm ET:** White House Rural Council members, Delta Regional Authority and Appalachian Regional Commission, will join U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development John Fernandez for a webinar to discuss strategic efforts to promote rural small business development. President Obama signed an Executive Order in June establishing the first White House Rural Council to ensure Federal resources are being coordinated across the government to strengthen rural communities and accelerate growth. Last week, the President [announced a series of initiatives](#) that leverage existing programs and funding to help small businesses and to meet other critical needs in rural communities. Click [HERE](#) to register for this event.

#### ***NOAA Webinar on Community Resilience, Part I - Assessing***

***Vulnerabilities Using the Roadmap for Adapting to Coastal Risk***

**September 7, 2011, 2:00-3:00 pm ET:** NOAA webinar highlighting a customizable approach for assessing hazard and climate change threats and impacts. This approach, the Roadmap for Adapting to Coastal Risk, is a participatory process for assessing vulnerability. The Roadmap helps communities characterize their vulnerabilities to hazards and climate change, and assess how existing planning and policy efforts can incorporate vulnerability issues. The Roadmap process helps communities move beyond general awareness of hazard and climate change impacts to actually identify risks and the potential actions that can reduce these risks. To register, please click [HERE](#).

***FHWA/FTA Workshops on the Role of Road Pricing in Supporting Funding and Regional Goals***

**September 8, 2011, Washington, DC:** The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Office of Operations, Office of Planning, and Office of Innovative Program Delivery, along with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), are jointly hosting a series of one-day workshops on *The Role of Road Pricing in Supporting Funding and Regional Goals: Integrating Pricing in Metropolitan Transportation Plans*. As metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) and their planning partners work together to develop metropolitan transportation plans, many agencies are looking for innovative approaches to address funding needs and to advance regional goals, including livability and environmental quality. The one-day workshop will be held from 9:00am-5:00 pm. FHWA has a limited pool of funding to support travel expenses for public agencies. If you are interested in attending one of these workshops and in potential travel assistance, please contact Heather Rigdon at [heather.m.rigdon@saic.com](mailto:heather.m.rigdon@saic.com) and/or Myron Swisher at [forrest.m.swisher@saic.com](mailto:forrest.m.swisher@saic.com).

***Municipal Financing for Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Webinar – Free!***

**September 13, 2011, 12:00-1:30 pm ET:** Hear about various methods by which municipalities could finance renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. This webinar is hosted by Energy Forefront. Speakers include: (1) Baird Brown, Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP, explaining multiple methods of financing including federal tax benefits, aggregation, securitization of smaller projects, 501(c)(3) non-profit corporations, & more. (2) Vincent DeVito, Bowditch & Dewey LLP, discussing how various cities & towns structured their energy financing. (3) Wayne Snider, describing how he procured financing for wind, solar, biomass and several other Fowler Colorado projects... without any upfront costs for Fowler.



***FHWA/FTA Workshops on the Role of Road Pricing in Supporting Funding and Regional Goals***

**September 13, 2011, Denver, CO:** The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Office of Operations, Office of Planning, and Office of Innovative Program Delivery, along with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), are jointly hosting a series of one-day workshops on *The Role of Road Pricing in Supporting Funding and Regional Goals: Integrating Pricing in Metropolitan Transportation Plans*. The one-day workshop will be held from 9:00am-5:00 pm. FHWA has a limited pool of funding to support travel expenses for public agencies. If you are interested in attending one of these workshops and in potential travel assistance, please contact Heather Rigdon at [heather.m.rigdon@saic.com](mailto:heather.m.rigdon@saic.com) and/or Myron Swisher at [forrest.m.swisher@saic.com](mailto:forrest.m.swisher@saic.com).

***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.

***FHWA/FTA Workshops on the Role of Road Pricing in Supporting Funding and Regional Goals***

**September 15, 2011, Atlanta, GA:** The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Office of Operations, Office of Planning, and Office of Innovative Program Delivery, along with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), are jointly hosting a series of one-day workshops on *The Role of Road Pricing in Supporting Funding and Regional Goals: Integrating Pricing in Metropolitan Transportation Plans*. The one-day workshop will be held from 9:00am-5:00 pm. FHWA has a limited pool of funding to support travel expenses for public agencies. If you are interested in attending one of these workshops and in potential travel assistance, please contact Heather Rigdon at [heather.m.rigdon@saic.com](mailto:heather.m.rigdon@saic.com) and/or Myron Swisher at [forrest.m.swisher@saic.com](mailto:forrest.m.swisher@saic.com).

***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.

***FHWA/FTA Workshops on the Role of Road Pricing in Supporting Funding and Regional Goals***

**September 20, 2011, Chicago, IL:** The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Office of Operations, Office of Planning, and Office of Innovative Program Delivery, along with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), are jointly hosting a series of one-day workshops on *The Role of Road Pricing in Supporting Funding and Regional Goals: Integrating Pricing in Metropolitan Transportation Plans*. The one-day workshop will be held from 9:00am-5:00 pm. FHWA has a limited pool of funding to support travel expenses for public agencies. If you are interested in attending one of these workshops and in potential travel assistance, please contact Heather Rigdon at [heather.m.rigdon@saic.com](mailto:heather.m.rigdon@saic.com) and/or Myron Swisher at [forrest.m.swisher@saic.com](mailto:forrest.m.swisher@saic.com).

***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 Oportunity, 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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