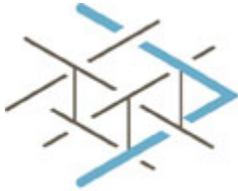


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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. X, No. 30, October 4, 2010

eRegions

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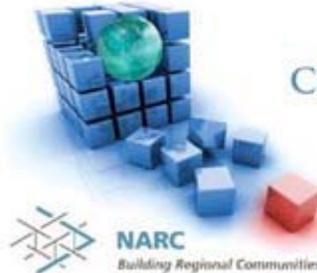
EXECUTIVEBRIEF

Colleagues,

Thank you to those who were able to join us in Austin last week. The Regional Metropolitan and Urban Policy Forum and 2010 Executive Directors' Conference were a tremendous success. Staff is working on uploading each of the presentations from the

[NARC](#)PROGRAM [NARC](#)POLICY [PARTNER](#)UPDATES

[GRANT](#)OPPORTUNITIES [UPCOMING](#)EVENTS



2011 NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF REGIONS

FEBRUARY 13-15, 2011

THE RITZ-CARLTON HOTEL
WASHINGTON, DC

REGISTER TODAY!

You're invited to join local elected officials, Councils of Government and Metropolitan Planning Organizations from around the country at the 2011 National Conference of Regions. This conference will focus on the Obama Administration's priorities, Congressional activities, and critical policy issues and pending federal legislation that will impact regions. This conference will lay out the legislative framework by which region's and their local governments can reinvigorate their vital role in federal transportation, economic development, homeland security and environmental policies and programs.

A draft agenda will be available soon. Click [HERE](#) to register or contact Lindsey Riley, lindsey@narc.org or 202.986.1032 x220, for more

events; these will be available later this week.

Last week, Erika Young attended the Illinois Metropolitan Planning Organizations' annual meeting and I will be presenting to the San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies Fall Policy Conference this week.

We've also launched the registration for the 2011 National Conference of Regions; as always, we'll offer early-bird pricing for this event through November 15th. We look forward to seeing you in February!

Best,
Fred

NARCSTAFF

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Executive Director

Shannon Baxevanis

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Naomi Friedman

Project Director

Jenee Kresge

Program Analyst

Lindsey Riley

Member Services

Manager

Erika Young

Transportation Director

information.

DIRECTORYof**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.

NARCPROGRAM

Dept. of Interior Outlines Energy Strategy: Last week, U.S. Department of Interior Secretary Ken Salazar outlined the Administration's comprehensive energy strategy, which focused on a path to a clean energy economy. Click **HERE** to read the Secretary's remarks.

October Marks National Energy Awareness Month: October is celebrated as National Energy Awareness Month to underscore energy as a national priority for security and environmental well-being. The Obama Administration will hold a month of clean energy events and activities; click **HERE** to access a calendar of events.

White House Releases Recovery Act Progress Report: With September 30 marking the end of the fiscal year, the White House released a new report, "Progress Implementing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009," which details out that Recovery Act (ARRA) funds have been put to work on-schedule, projects have frequently come in under-budget and the program now has a lower than average rate of waste and fraud. The target set for September 30th was to spend 70 percent of ARRA funds with a variety of program-specific deadlines. The report finds the following as key progress indicators; click **HERE** to view the full report or visit **www.recovery.gov** for agency-specific information:

On Schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 70 percent of Recovery Act funds were outlaid by September 30th, with \$308 billion in spending paid out and \$243 billion in tax relief provided.• Every spending deadline set by Congress was met on-time and, in many cases, ahead of schedule.
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To access past issues of *eRegions*, [visit our website](#).

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

Under Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Increased cost-savings for more job creation projects.
Strong Oversight	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Less than 0.2 percent of all reported awards currently have active fraud investigations.

EPA Releases the National Water Program Strategy Update: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Water Program released an update to its [Response to Climate Change Strategy](#). This 2010-2011 Update describes the Key Actions that are continuing to be implemented over the next two years.

Join NARC's Regional Green Infrastructure Working Group: NARC, with support from the U.S. Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry Program, plans to launch a *Regional Green Infrastructure Working Group* this fall. The group will offer an opportunity for regional green infrastructure planners and practitioners to exchange best practices and receive updates from experts in the field. The group will share information via email, conference calls and webinars scheduled throughout the year. The group's first, introductory call is scheduled for Wednesday, October 6 at 3pm EDT. Please contact Jenee Kresge, jenee@narc.org or 202.986.1032 x215, for more information or to join the group.

NARCPOLICY

The House and Senate are out of session.

Continuing Resolution Keeps Government Working: Last week, before Congress departed to campaign the upcoming elections, they finalized a continuing resolution (CR) ([PL 111-242](#)), which was signed into law by the President, to keep the government and its programs at level funding through December 3, 2010. This was done in place of Congress adopting an annual budget resolution (the funding blueprint) or moving fiscal year 2011 appropriations bills. Congress intends to work on an omnibus bill during the lame duck, which will begin November 15. There is the possibility of extending the CR until the next Congress begins in January 2011 to allow final work to be done on the FY11 spending measures with the newly elected Members of Congress.

Federal Government Takes Next Steps to Establish Telework: The U.S. Senate passed [HR 1722](#), the Telework Improvements Act of 2010, which

would require federal agencies to set telework policies and training programs to allow federal employees to telework at the “maximum extent possible.” Click [HERE](#) to read the Congressional Budget Office estimates on the bill’s government cost saving.

Support Livable Communities: Both the House ([HR 4690](#)) and Senate ([S1619](#)) have legislation 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](#) to access a letter for your region to personalize. For more information or assistance with an endorsement, please contact Shannon Baxevanis 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 Shannon Baxevanis at Shannon@NARC.org or 202.986.1032 x217.

PARTNERUPDATES

ICMA Knowledge Network: Join the Conversation! It's Free! ICMA is committed to fostering excellence and innovation in local government. The ICMA Knowledge Network is an online community built on the following ideals:

- Rich Content - Breadth and depth of content in all facets of local government operations and management.
- Social Networking and Knowledge Exchange - Within an open environment, ability to network and exchange ideas with a worldwide community of experts in local government and topics related to local government.
- Partnering - A partnership of the ICMA, the Alliance for Innovation

and the School of Public Affairs at Arizona State University, the Knowledge Network is designed as a shared resource. Via open architecture, local governments, groups, organizations and affiliated associations will be provided seamless access, interaction and knowledge exchange. The Knowledge Network actively seeks new partners providing pathways to fresh, engaging content and new user audiences.

- Global Scope - The free flowing exchange of concepts, ideas and best practices will occur without boundary. City leaders in developing nations will be able access the functionality of the Knowledge Network to seek answers to their unique challenges and spur resource sharing and knowledge exchange throughout their countries.

Register at [the Knowledge Network page](#). It only takes a moment; it costs you nothing; it opens up a communications channel to like-minded people in local government around the world.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

U.S. EPA Funding Available to Support Brownfields Assessments -

Deadline: October 15, 2010

The U.S. EPA has funding available to support brownfields assessments, including inventories, characterizations, cleanup planning and community involvement related to brownfield sites. EPA anticipates awarding an estimated 185 assessment grants for an estimated \$52.4 million, and a total of \$92.9 million in related Brownfields grants. For community-wide proposals, applicants may request up to \$200,000 for hazardous substances, and up to \$200,000 for petroleum activities. For site specific grants, applicants may request a waiver up to \$350,000 and assessment coalitions may submit a proposal up to \$1,000,000. Interest in sustainable redevelopment of sites. Eligible entities include: local governments, regional councils and tribes. Nonprofits not eligible. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

U.S. DOT Funding Available for the Rail Line Relocation and Improvement Projects (Program) - *Deadline: October 29, 2010*

The Federal Railroad Administration announced the availability of approximately \$20.5 million in discretionary funding for the Rail Line Relocation and Improvement Projects (Program) in a notice published in the Federal Register (see attached). Projects eligible are construction projects undertaken for the improvement of the route or structure of a rail line that

either: are carried out for the purpose of mitigating the adverse effects of rail traffic on safety, motor vehicle traffic flow, community quality of life, or economic development; or involve a lateral or vertical relocation of any portion of the rail line. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

ESRI ArcLogistics Government Grant Program - *Deadline: November 11, 2010*

ESRI recently announced a grant program that will award subscriptions to their new cloud-based vehicle routing solution. One hundred state, regional, and local government agencies across the U.S. will receive grants totaling \$450,000 in value. For more information about the grant, please visit www.esri.com/govgrants.

U.S. HUD Funding Available through HOPE VI Revitalization grant program - *Deadline: November 22, 2010*

HUD is making available approximately \$124 million in assistance through the FY2010 HOPE VI Revitalization grant program for public housing authorities with severely distressed public housing. The maximum amount of each grant award is \$22 million; it is anticipated that five or six grant awards will be made. Eligible entities are (non-troubled) public housing authorities (PHAs) with severely distressed public housing, subject to the requirements under Section III of this Notice of Funding Availability. Nonprofit organizations, for-profit organizations, private citizens and entrepreneurs are not eligible to apply. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

2011 U.S. Forest Service National Urban and Community Forestry Challenge (NUCFAC) Cost-Share Grant Program- *Pre-Proposal Deadline: November 29, 2010*

The Forest Service recently announced the availability of approximately \$855,000 for its 2011 NUCFAC Cost-Share Grant Program, a funding opportunity with a focus on urban and community forestry projects with national or widespread impacts and applications. This year, the categories of emphasis include mitigating greenhouse gas emissions or helping communities adapt to climate change; the influence of urban and community forests on public health; and, the influence of urban and community forestry on economic development. For more information on the program, including a list of past recipients, visit the [NUCFAC webpage](#). Click [HERE](#) to download a full grant application package.

UPCOMINGEVENTS

October 14, Webinar, 3:00-4:00pm ET: The Office of Strategic Initiatives, Partnerships and Outreach (OSIPO) at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) will host a webinar on their Grasstops Partnership Campaign, whose goal is to aggressively increase FNS program awareness and participation through local level initiatives. The Grasstops Partnership Campaign seeks to engage state and local elected officials and jointly create action plans and/or partner agreements, including one with NARC, to promote nutrition programs respective to their locale. FNS will provide an overview of the program and how elected officials and regional councils alike can work together to assist in these efforts. Click [HERE](#) for additional information and to register.

November 15-17, 2010, St. Louis, MO: The U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration's (EDA) Chicago and Denver Regional Offices will host a joint regional conference, *Keys to Grow Your Regional Economy: Jobs, Innovation and Partnerships*. The conference will provide ample opportunities for networking and interaction with regional economic development leaders, practitioners, representatives from other federal agencies, presenters and EDA staff. Full conference details and registration information is available [HERE](#).

November 29-December 4, Lyon, France and Brussels, Belgium: ITA and EDA are will host a "U.S. Clean Technology Trade & Investment Mission." Please visit the official mission webpage, by clicking [HERE](#), for the mission statement, application and application instructions.

February 13-15, 2011, Washington, DC: NARC will host its 2011 National Conference of Regions, which will focus on Obama Administration's priorities, Congressional activities, and critical policy issues and pending federal legislation that will impact regions. A draft agenda will be available soon; click [HERE](#) to register for the conference.

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