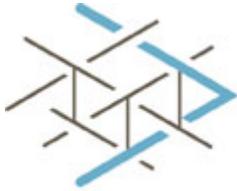


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## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. X, No. 31, October 12, 2010

# eRegions

### **NARC**LEADERSHIP

President James 'Jim'

Townsend,

Judge/Executive,

Webster County,

Kentucky

Chair Charles 'Chick'

Krautler,

Executive Directors

Council

Director, Atlanta

Regional Commission

### **EXECUTIVE**BRIEF

Colleagues,

Immediate Past

President Steve

Cassano spoke last

week at the Connecticut

Conference of

Municipalities

convention, on the need

to work regionally,

especially when it

comes to cost-sharing.

"[In Connecticut,] we

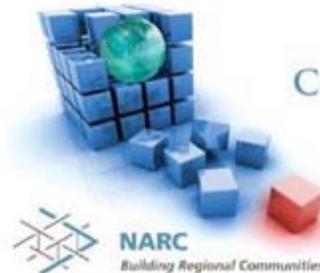
[NARC](#)PROGRAM

[NARC](#)POLICY

[PARTNER](#)UPDATES

[GRANT](#)OPPORTUNITIES

[UPCOMING](#)EVENTS



## 2011 NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF REGIONS

FEBRUARY 13-15, 2011

THE RITZ-CARLTON HOTEL  
WASHINGTON, DC

### **DRAFT AGENDA RELEASED:**

### **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 - *Renewing the Regional Commitment*. This conference will focus on the Obama Administration's priorities, Congressional activities, and critical policy issues and pending federal legislation that will impact regions. Secure your seat at the table to help 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.

have 169 principalities, each with a king, each with a royal court," he said. "We have close to 169 superintendents and planners. We have to have more cost-sharing." Click [HERE](#) to read the full article from Fox News.

The Regional Metropolitan and Urban Policy Forum and 2010 Executive Directors' Conference presentation and materials have now been posted. Click [HERE](#) to access additional information. Thank you again to our hosts, the Capital Area Council of Governments, Brazos Valley Council of Governments and the Central Texas Council of Governments for their work in making both events successful! For those of you who couldn't attend please consider penciling in the events for 2011. We had substantive conversations on topics both close to home and cutting edge. We hope to see you every year.

Erika and I will be heading to the Arizona Rural Transportation Summit later this week, where we will be

Click [HERE](#) to register or contact Lindsey Riley, [lindsey@narc.org](mailto:lindsey@narc.org) or 202.986.1032 x220, for more information.

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## DIRECTORY of 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](mailto:sylvia@narc.org) or 202.986.1032.

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## NARC PROGRAM

### Upcoming NARC Webinars:

- **October 14, 3:00-4:00pm ET - *What Does the USDA Food and Nutrition Service Program Mean for your Region?***: 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.  
*Moderator:* Lindsey Riley, NARC  
*Presenters:* Jeff Greenfield, Manager, and Jennifer McNabb, Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships, USDA FNS
- **October 20, 2:00-3:00pm ET – *Successful Regional Strategies for Integrating the Aging Population into Livable Communities:*** NARC and the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) are co-hosting a webinar that explores how the aging population is incorporated into comprehensive regional planning and implementation. This discussion will highlight lessons learned and offer recommendations for how regional planning organizations and Area Agencies on Aging can work together to achieve tangible

presenting on Livability and Transportation Finance. Naomi will be in Los Angeles this week as well, to present at the U.S. Department of Energy's Solar America Cities program, at the Solar Power International Conference. Lindsey will also be on the road attending the International City/County Management's Annual Conference in San Jose.

We've launched the registration for the [\*\*2011 National Conference of Regions\*\*](#); the premier Washington event for regional staff and local elected officials working on the regional agenda. As always, we offer early-bird pricing for this event through November 15th. We look forward to seeing you in February!

Best,  
Fred

**NARCSTAFF**

**Fred Abousleman**

Executive Director

**Shannon Baxevanis**

Policy Manager

**Sylvia Bryant**

Office Manager

**Naomi Friedman**

Project Director

results. Please register by clicking [HERE](#).

*Moderator:* Jenee Kresge, NARC

*Federal Legislative Update:* KJ Hertz, n4a

*Urban:* Jennifer Schaufele & Jayla Sanchez-Warren, Denver Regional Council of Governments

*Rural:* Jiten Shah & Vivian McNatton, Green River Area Development District

*Federal Partner:* Kathy Sykes, Aging Initiative, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

**NARC Transportation Resources:** NARC has available two new resources for regional planning organizations and their local elected officials.

- **Air Quality Toolkit:** The Air Quality toolkit provides information briefs, examples of initiatives that NARC is engaged in, as well as resources to help planners and their local elected officials through any questions. Click [HERE](#) to access the toolkit.
- **Transportation Rescission Action Packet:** This packet provides information on transportation funding rescissions and is intended to help planners and local elected officials navigate this complex issue and provide options and strategies to better communicate the affects that rescissions have on local communities. This packet includes issue briefs, actions taken by NARC and its association partners, as well as sample talking points, to assist in any outreach and education efforts. Click [HERE](#) to access the packet.

**President Obama Forms Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force:**

The President signed an executive order to establish the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force to coordinate efforts to implement restoration programs and projects in the gulf coast region. The task force, led by U.S. EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, will coordinate with federal agencies on public health issues and on ways to enhance the economic benefits of ecosystem restoration. The task force will consist of five state representatives, appointed by the president upon recommendation of the governors of each gulf state, along with one senior official each from many federal departments and agencies, including the departments of Defense, Justice, Interior, Agriculture, Commerce and Transportation. Click [HERE](#) to view the executive order.

**Commission Finalizes Disaster Report Recommendations: [The National](#)**

**[Commission on Children and Disasters](#),** a congressionally-created commission, sent its final report to the White House and Congress detailing

[Jenee Kresge](#)

Program Analyst

[Lindsey Riley](#)

Member Services

Manager

[Erika Young](#)

Transportation Director

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the public health needs in response to disaster situations. Some of the recommendations include: improving disaster planning in places that serve children; developing effective mental health services for children post-disaster; and, integrating children into disaster planning at the state and local level. This report may pave the way for action next Congress. Click [HERE](#) to access the report.

**DOE Offers Free Online Training:** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) will hold a series of Technical Assistance Program (TAP) Webinars scheduled for Fall 2010. These Webinars support the management of projects funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act through DOE's State Energy Program (SEP) and Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG). Click [HERE](#) to access information on upcoming and previously held webinars.

**SEED Center Website Launched:** The American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), in partnership with ecoAmerica and other groups, launched the SEED Center, a clearinghouse on Sustainable Education and Economic Development. This center and website will provide community colleges and other interested parties guidance and resources on green workforce development in areas such as renewable energy, energy efficient technologies, green building and building efficiency. NARC is on the Center's technical advisory group and AACC is on the Advisory Council for NARC's U.S. Department of Labor *Pathways Out of Poverty* project. Click [HERE](#) to visit the SEED Center website or [HERE](#) for a recent media release about the Center.

**House T&I Report Released:** The House Transportation and Infrastructure Minority staff released, *Sitting on Our Assets: The Federal Government's Misuse of Taxpayer-Owned Assets*, a new report highlighting a quarter of a trillion dollars in potential savings to the taxpayer through improved management of federal assets and the elimination of waste in agencies and programs under the Committee's jurisdiction. Click [HERE](#) to access the report.

**U.S. DOT and EPA Announced Fuel Economy and GHG Standards:** The U.S. DOT and U.S. EPA announced their plans to begin the process of developing more stringent fuel economy and greenhouse gas standards (GHG) for passenger cars and trucks in model years 2017 through 2025. DOT and EPA issued a Notice of Intent to conduct a joint rulemaking in the Federal Register on October 1, 2010, with comments due by October 31, 2010. Click [HERE](#) for additional information on the Notice of Intent. The

timeline for these regulations is roughly:

Notice of Intent for Joint Rulemaking	October 1, 2010
Public Comments Due	October 31, 2010
Supplemental Notice of Intent with additional details	November 30, 2010
Propose actual standards	Early 2011

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## NARCPOLICY

*The House and Senate are out of session. They will reconvene for a lame duck session after the November elections.*

**New Report Makes Transportation Policy Recommendations:** The University of Virginia's Miller Center of Public Affairs recently released the report, *Well Within Reach: America's New Transportation Agenda*, which highlights ten recommendations on how to improve America's roads and bridges. This report, which is the follow on to a conference of industry experts held last year, concludes that the U.S. will be unable to compete as a global leader without a robust national transportation system. Click [HERE](#) to access the report.

**Green Infrastructure Explored in House Subcommittee Hearing:** The U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Water Resources Subcommittee held a hearing to detail various aspects of green infrastructure to assist with water quality on the local level. The Green Communities Act (H.R. 2222) was explored as a way to help local governments implement cost-effective strategies to mitigate stormwater runoff. Click [HERE](#) for more information on the hearing.

**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 and click [HERE](#) for a support resolution for your region to personalize. For more information or assistance with an endorsement, please contact Shannon Baxevanis at [Shannon@NARC.org](mailto: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](mailto:Shannon@NARC.org) or 202.986.1032 x217.

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## PARTNERUPDATES

**NLC's Emerging Issues Article:** The National League of Cities' (NLC) latest Emerging Issues column from their weekly newspaper, *Nation's Cities Weekly*, has been published. "Are we ready for government **by** the people?" Many city officials and many citizens feel they and their community have been hurt by well-intended public participation processes gone badly awry. Once burned, twice shy. There are lots of oracles who have "should's" and "ought's" to offer. Not much help there. Click [HERE](#) to access the article.

**ICMA Knowledge Network:** Join the Conversation! It's Free! The International City/Count Management Association (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.

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## 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. HUD Funding Available for Choice Neighborhoods –**

*Deadline: October 26, 2010*

U.S. HUD is accepting proposals for the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative, which seeks to employ a comprehensive approach to neighborhood transformation, taking distressed public and assisted housing into energy-efficient, mixed-income housing and neighborhoods of poverty into viable, mixed-income neighborhoods with access to well-functioning services, high-quality public schools, public transportation, and improved access to jobs. Planning and Implementation grants will be awarded. HUS has \$65 million available for 19 awards. Eligible entities: Public Housing Authorities (PHAs), local governments, nonprofits, and for-profit developers that apply jointly with a public entity. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

### **U.S. EPA Funding Available for GHG Reduction & Energy Efficiency –**

Deadline: October 27, 2010

U.S. EPA is accepting proposals to advance national, regional, state, and local energy efficiency programming through the demonstration of potential to create a sustainable change in the market for energy efficient products, services, and best practices. Proposed activities relevant to local governments include improving energy performance in the residential and commercial/ government market through increased use of high-efficiency products; promoting combined heat and power as clean distributed generation in developing state and local energy and environmental strategies; and, providing information and technical assistance at the state or regional level about policies and programs that have been effective in maximizing energy savings and GHG emission reductions within the utility sector. Nearly \$5.36 million is available in funding. Eligible entities: States; local governments; territories; Indian tribes; and possessions of the United States, including the District of Columbia; international organizations; public and private universities and colleges; hospitals; laboratories; other public or private nonprofit institutions. 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](http://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.

**U.S. EPA Accepting Applications for Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training – Deadline: January 14, 2011**

The U.S. EPA is accepting funding proposals to deliver environmental workforce development and job training programs focused on hazardous and solid waste management, assessment, and cleanup associated activities. These grants are to recruit, train, and place, unemployed and under-employed, predominantly low-income and minority, residents affected by hazardous and solid waste sites and facilities with the skills needed to secure full-time, sustainable employment in the environmental field and in the assessment and cleanup work. EPA has available \$4 million to award approximately 13 cooperative agreements. Eligible entities: local governments, government entity created through state legislature, Regional Council or group of local governments, redevelopment agency, Indian tribe, land clearance authority, and non-profit organizations. Click [HERE](#) for the application guidelines. Click [HERE](#) for more information on brownfields funding opportunities.

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## 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.

**October 14, Webinar, 2:00-3:15 pm ET:** The National Association of Counties (NACo) will host a free webinar, *How Can Smart Growth Put Your County on a Path to a Green Economy?* NACo is teaming up with its urban planning and design partners to help your county implement change toward a greener economy and greener future. Join the webinar to explore the innovative land use and design strategies available for promoting green economic development, green comprehensive planning, and building policies to create jobs and save money. Click [HERE](#) for additional information or to register.

**October 20, Webinar, 2:00-3:00pm ET:** NARC and the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) are co-hosting a webinar, *Successful Regional Strategies for Integrating the Aging Population into Livable Communities*, that explores how the aging population is incorporated into comprehensive regional planning and implementation. This discussion will highlight lessons learned and offer recommendations for how regional planning organizations and Area Agencies on Aging can work together to achieve tangible results. Please register by clicking [HERE](#).

*Moderator:* Jenee Kresge, NARC

*Federal Legislative Update:* KJ Hertz, n4a

*Urban:* Jennifer Schaufele & Jayla Sanchez-Warren, Denver Regional Council of Governments

*Rural:* Jiten Shah & Vivian McNatton, Green River Area Development District

*Federal Partner:* Kathy Sykes, Aging Initiative, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

**October 28 OR November 2, 2010, Webinar:** The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) will host a free webinar about the 2011 National Spatial Data Infrastructure Cooperative Agreements Program (NSDI CAP), which funds innovative projects building infrastructure to discover, access, share,

manage and use digital geospatial data. Webinar participants will learn about the program and how to apply for the upcoming 2011 round of funding. The webinar will be held twice; however each webinar is limited to 40 attendees, so please register soon. Click [here](#) for registration and additional webinar information. The 2011 NSDI CAP announcement should be posted to [www.Grants.gov](http://www.Grants.gov) by the end of October, and NARC will provide a direct link to this information in *eRegions* when it becomes available.

**November 11-13, 2010, Albany, NY:** The Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group (NESAWG) is hosting *It Takes a Region – 2010: A Working Conference to Build our Northeast Food System*, featuring a special pre-conference training session hosted by the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission and the American Farmland Trust, focused on planning professionals and their role in planning for food systems change. Additional information on the pre-conference training session can be found [here](#), and registration and general information about the conference is available [here](#).

**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. Click [HERE](#) to register for the conference.

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