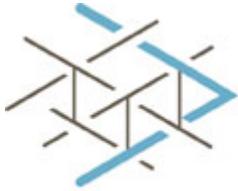


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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. X, No. 32, October 18, 2010

eRegions

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Townsend,
Judge/Executive,
Webster County,
Kentucky

Chair Charles 'Chick'

Krautler,
Executive Directors
Council
Director, Atlanta
Regional Commission

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

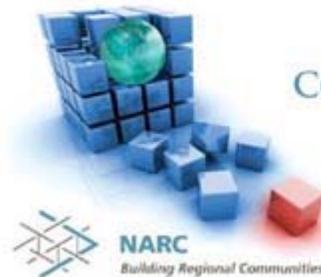
Colleagues,

We are all back from extended trips visiting regions. It is always nice to meet with you in person and discuss issues facing your communities and regional planning organizations.

It is also a pleasure to

[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 - *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.

Click [HERE](#) to register or contact Lindsey Riley, lindsey@narc.org or

see announcements of federal funding for many of you. NARC worked hard over the last two years with the Administration on the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Sustainable Communities Grant program to keep regions square in the eye of funding priorities. That hard work paid off - as well as the time and effort regions put in their applications (which was no small amount). We know there were many deserving applications – more than could possibly be funded. We will work with all of you to keep refining the process, strengthen the applications and push the regional agenda forward.

Cheers!
Fred

NARCSTAFF

Fred Abousleman

Executive Director

Shannon Baxevanis

Policy Manager

Sylvia Bryant

Office Manager

Naomi Friedman

Project Director

Jenee Kresge

Program Analyst

202.986.1032 x220, for more 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

Upcoming NARC Webinars:

- **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 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
- **November 3, 2:00-3:00pm ET - NSDI Cooperative Agreement Program Grants:** Applied Geographics, Inc. (AppGeo), with assistance from the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) will hold this webinar describing how regions can take advantage of FGDC's 2011 National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) Cooperative Agreement Program (CAP) grants. It will provide the details of the grant program and how to apply, as well as examples of successful application topics and ways to meet the matching requirements. The presentation will be introduced by FGDC **Fifty**

Lindsey Riley

Member Services

Manager

Erika Young

Transportation Director

To access past issues of *eRegions*, **visit our website.**

Make NARC your homepage — **click here to learn how.**

States Initiative program leader, Milo Robinson, and presented by **Applied Geographics, Inc.** (AppGeo), which is under contract to support this initiative. The FGDC and the **National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC)** have promoted GIS strategic and business planning through the NSDI CAP Grant Program since 2006. **Information on past recipients and projects** is available on the FGDC website. A set of **Guidelines for GIS Strategic and Business Planning** explains the planning process that States have been using successfully.

NARC to Build Local and Regional Climate Change Resiliency: The National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Climate Program Office has awarded NARC a grant to investigate the readiness and needs of local government, regional planners and decision makers to plan for and respond to changes in the climate. NARC will reach out to its membership network to determine the type, scale and format of climate information; as well as data and tools needed to address climate change adaptation as it relates to land-use planning. Findings from this project will help inform national climate change activities, including the work of the National Assessment on Climate Change – a multi-year study on U.S. climate change impacts. Over the coming months, members will be asked to participate in a needs assessment and survey. NARC will be holding a workshop at the 45th Annual Conference and Exhibition in San Diego; will create a Climate Change Adaptation Advisory Council; will disseminate information and will publish white paper with the findings. For more information on this project, please contact Naomi Friedman, **naomi@narc.org** or 202.986.1032 x224.

Solar Power International Conference and Expo: NARC staff spoke at a workshop entitled, “Energizing Communities: Enabling the Local Marketplace” at the annual Solar Power event, held last week in Los Angeles, as part of its new solar communities project with the U.S. Department of Energy. At the conference, the Solar Foundation unveiled the first, **National Solar Jobs Census 2010: A Review of the U.S. Solar Workforce**, which revealed that the number of solar workers in the U.S. doubled from 2009 to 2010, with 93,502 individuals now employed in this trade and significant growth anticipated in coming years. For information about the conference, click **HERE** and click **HERE** for a copy of the solar job census.

NARCPOLICY

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

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 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! 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.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

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.

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.

UPCOMINGEVENTS

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 by the end of October, and NARC will provide a direct link to this information in *eRegions* when it becomes available.

November 3, 2:00-3:00pm ET Webinar: Applied Geographics, Inc. (AppGeo), with assistance from the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) will hold this webinar describing how regions can take advantage of FGDC's 2011 National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) Cooperative Agreement Program (CAP) grants. It will provide the details of the grant program and how to apply, as well as examples of successful application topics and ways to meet the matching requirements. The presentation will be introduced by FGDC [Fifty States Initiative](#) Program leader, Milo Robinson, and presented by [Applied Geographics, Inc.](#) (AppGeo), which is under contract to support this initiative. The FGDC and the [National States Geographic Information Council \(NSGIC\)](#) have promoted GIS strategic and business planning through the NSDI CAP Grant Program since 2006. [Information on past recipients and projects](#) is available on the FGDC website. A set of [Guidelines for GIS Strategic and Business Planning](#) explains the planning process that States have been using successfully.

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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