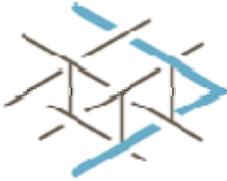


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**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS**

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**eRegions**

**NARC LEADERSHIP**

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Executive Director, Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana  
Regional Council of Governments

**EXECUTIVE BRIEF**

Colleagues,

Lots of action on the Hill as lawmakers move on appropriations, the Job's Act, and Authorizations of core programs. Within the next few weeks we should have a clear signal of infrastructure investment from both the Senate and the Administration as both

[PROGRAM UPDATE](#) [POLICY UPDATE](#)  
[PARTNER UPDATE](#) [GRANT OPPORTUNITIES](#)  
[UPCOMING EVENTS](#)

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## **PROGRAM UPDATE**

**NARC Transportation Committee Webinar:** The next Transportation Committee webinar is scheduled for Tuesday, November 8, 2011 from 12:00-2:00pm ET. The webinar will focus on Regional Aviation Systems Planning: Introductions and Perspectives and will feature the case studies we've recently created. While the agenda is yet to be released, you can Click [HERE](#) to register early.

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## **POLICY UPDATE**

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

**Appropriations Bills Update:** The U.S. Senate continued debating H.R. 2112, the combined fiscal year 2012 Agriculture, Commerce-Justice-Science (C-J-S) (S 1572) and Transportation-HUD (T-HUD) (S 1596) appropriations bills. While the Senate adjourned for a week of Congressional recess before fully voting on the legislation, the legislation is anticipated to pass the Senate during the first week in November.

move significant legislation forward.

On a parallel track, lawmakers are working on the 2012 appropriations bills (which need action by Nov. 18) and the Deficit Reduction Super Committee is holding a series of hearings on government and program cost savings. According to CQ this week, "Senate Democrats will turn their focus to transportation jobs, as they move ahead with a strategy of forcing individual votes on popular portions of President Obama's job-creation bill... the new bill would be funded with a surtax on income above \$1 million. The \$60 billion package of transportation infrastructure projects would be offset by a 0.7 percent surcharge on income exceeding \$1 million."

Furthermore, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee will be marking up their transportation authorization bill in early November - expecting to lay out \$109 billion over two years.

We will continue to work

While the U.S. House passed the Agriculture appropriations legislation in June, it has yet to pass either of the C-J-S or THUD appropriations bills.

**Sen. Coburn Files Amendment to 2012 Appropriations Bill Cutting**

**USDA Rural Development Funding:** Last week, Sen. Tom Coburn (R-OK) filed several amendments to the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2012 ([HR 2112](#)), including [Amendment 800](#) to reduce funding by 40 percent (\$1 billion) for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Rural Development Agency. Additional background information from Sen. Coburn can be found [HERE](#). The Campaign for Renewed Rural Development has encouraged its members and partners to educate their representatives regarding the importance of Rural Development programs to support economic development in regions across the U.S.

**Amendment to Appropriations Bill to Increase Disaster Funds for**

**EDA:** An amendment authored by Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) and several cosponsors passed last week to increase disaster relief funding the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) by \$375 million for a total of \$500 million in FY12 Appropriations. The funding would be available to all areas where a federal disaster declaration was made in 2011.

**Deficit Reduction Committee Update:**

The Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction will hold their third public hearing Wednesday morning entitled, "Overview: Discretionary Outlays, Security and Non-Security". The Committee Members will hear testimony from Doug Elmendorf, Director of the Congressional Budget Office. Click [HERE](#) for the hearing webpage.

**President Obama's Job Package Update:** The U.S. Senate is expected to consider a portion of President Obama's job-creation package that focuses on transportation and infrastructure next week when it returns from recess. The package, entitled "Rebuild America Jobs Act", contains \$50 billion in road, bridge, rail, transit and airport projects, among other items. Click [HERE](#) for the Senate Democrats fact sheet on the proposal.

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## PARTNERUPDATE

**Solar Survey:** The International City/County Management Association

on all of these issues with you.

Best,  
Fred

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(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). If you need to obtain your identifier or have questions, please email [solar@icma.org](mailto:solar@icma.org).

## **GRANT OPPORTUNITIES**

### **EPA 2011 Smart Growth Implementation Assistance Program**

*Application Deadline: October 28, 2011*

The Office of Sustainable Communities in EPA's Office of Policy is seeking letters of interest from states, regions, and communities that want to develop in ways that protect the environment, use resources efficiently, create economic opportunities, and provide a high quality of life. The Smart Growth Implementation Assistance program provides assistance from national experts to help communities explore barriers to smart growth implementation and pilot innovative ideas that create more sustainable communities. EPA will provide this assistance through an Agency contract, not a grant. For more information, click [HERE](#). Eligible Entities include Tribal, local, regional, and state governments and non-profit organizations that have a demonstrated partnership with a governmental entity.

### **EPA 2011 Smart Growth Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities Program**

*Application Deadline: October 28, 2011*

Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities seeks to provide quick, targeted technical assistance to communities using a variety of tools that have demonstrated results and widespread application. This technical assistance will help selected local and/or tribal governments to implement development approaches that protect the environment, improve public health, create jobs, expand economic opportunity, and improve overall quality of life. Assistance will be provided in two ways: first, EPA will select up to 50 communities and provide direct assistance by EPA staff and private sector experts, and second, EPA has awarded cooperative agreements to four non-government organizations with sustainable community expertise to deliver technical assistance. For more information, click [HERE](#). Eligible Entities include Tribal, local, regional, and state governments and non-profit organizations that have a

demonstrated partnership with a governmental entity.

### **EPA Accepting Applications for Environmental Education Sub-Grants Program**

*Application Deadline: November 8, 2011*

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the availability of \$1.5 million in grant funding for the Environmental Education (EE) Sub-grants Program for 2011. The purpose of this competitive grant program is to increase environmental awareness and stewardship. This funding will provide participants in EE grant-funded projects with the skills necessary to make informed environmental decisions and take responsible actions toward the environment. EPA expects to award one (1) grant for approximately \$150,000 in each of EPA's ten (10) Regions. [HERE](#) For more information on eligibility and application materials, click [HERE](#). For direct questions on the Environmental Education Sub-grants Program for 2011, send emails to [EEgrants@epa.gov](mailto:EEgrants@epa.gov).

### **NIFA Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program Accepting Applications**

*Applications Due: November 17, 2011*

The U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) is accepting applications for its Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program, which includes funds for nonprofit organizations engaging in Community Food Projects, Planning Projects of Capacity Building Projects. Anticipated funding for the full program is \$5 million. More information is available [HERE](#).

### **2012 NSDI Cooperative Agreements Program**

*January 2012*

Preliminary information regarding the 2012 National Spatial Data Information (NSDI) Cooperative Agreements Program has been released. A full grant announcement will be posted by the end of October. Click [HERE](#) to access the information that is available now.

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## **UPCOMINGEVENTS**

### ***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 Water Governance, Water Advocacy, and the Business of Water, and will feature speakers from the public, advocacy, and the business sector. To view the full agenda and register, please click [HERE](#).

**Webinar: Brownfields Redevelopment, Community Revitalization and Regional Planning**

October 25, 4:00 pm ET: Smart Growth America and the National Association of Local Government Environmental Professionals (NALGEP) are co-hosting a webinar on brownfield redevelopment to support economic development opportunities related to housing, transportation and infrastructure. The webinar will feature speakers from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and practitioners. Registration is free and can be completed [HERE](#).

***EPA Webinar: Long-term Green Power Contracts Sponsored by EPA's Green Power Partners Program***

**October 26, 1:00-2:15pm ET:** This webinar explores the ability of long-term green power contracts to drive the development of new renewable generation capacity. It will cover various options for long-term procurement and highlight the experiences of several Green Power Partners that have committed to contracts of ten years or more. Visit [HERE](#) to register for this free webinar.

***Breaking Ground 2011: The Power of Partnerships***

**November 1, 2011, Philadelphia, PA:** In a time of declining funding resources, creative partnerships between government, the private sector, nonprofits, and philanthropy can offer solutions to address growing needs, such as infrastructure, redevelopment, public amenities, and human services. This one-day conference, hosted by the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, will examine some of those creative partnerships from within Philadelphia and around the country that are making a difference in today's tough economic climate. Click [HERE](#) for more information about the event.

***NARC Transportation Committee Webinar***

**November 8, 12:00-2:00 pm ET:** The next Transportation Committee webinar is scheduled for Tuesday, November 8, 2011. While the agenda is yet to be released, you can Click [HERE](#) to register early.

***2012 National Spatial Data Infrastructure Cooperative Agreements Program Webinar***

**November 14, 1:00-2:00 pm ET:** The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) invites you to participate in a free webinar that will provide information about the 2012 National Spatial Data Infrastructure Cooperative Agreements Program (NSDI CAP). The purpose of NSDI CAP is to fund innovative projects in the geospatial data community to build the infrastructure necessary to effectively discover, access, share, manage and use digital geospatial data. Participants will learn what the NSDI CAP is and how to apply for this federally funded program. Click [\*\*HERE\*\*](#) to register.

***2012 National Spatial Data Infrastructure Cooperative Agreements Program Webinar***

**December 1, 1:00-2:00 pm ET:** The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) invites you to participate in a free webinar that will provide information about the 2012 National Spatial Data Infrastructure Cooperative Agreements Program (NSDI CAP). The purpose of NSDI CAP is to fund innovative projects in the geospatial data community to build the infrastructure necessary to effectively discover, access, share, manage and use digital geospatial data. Participants will learn what the NSDI CAP is and how to apply for this federally funded program. Click [\*\*HERE\*\*](#) to register.

***2012 National Conference of Regions***

**February 12-14, 2012, Washington, DC:** Save the Date! NARC will host its 2012 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. Registration and additional information will be available soon.

***46th Annual Conference and Exhibition***

**June 10-14, 2012, St. Petersburg, FL:** Save the Date! Join us for the the largest national event focused on promoting effective regional cooperation and solutions through interaction and education. NARC's annual conference is the premier place to learn how to engage in effective regional collaboration. Registration and additional information will be available in early 2012.

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