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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

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eRegions

NARC LEADERSHIP

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Webster County,
Kentucky

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Krautler,
Executive Directors
Council
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Regional Commission

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Chicago and Denver EDA Regional Conference in St. Louis in a few weeks. For those of you attending, I hope we have some time to catch-up. The EDA Regional hosts have provided an

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

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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.

excellent training agenda and good sessions and speakers. For more information, click [HERE](#).

We are collecting information on the HUD, TIGER and combined grants that some of you received. The intent is to build out a robust database to help influence other funding opportunities and continue to hone the application process. See more detailed information under the NARC Program Update below.

We hope you will take advantage of early bird registration for the 2011 National Conference of Regions -- hurry, early-bird registration ends November 15th. We will be introducing discussion concerning the next Congress, the 112th, which forms on Jan 3, 2011, and the continued role of regions in the Administrations' and Congressional agenda. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

Best,
Fred

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

DIRECTORYofREGIONS

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:

- **Wednesday, November 3, 2010, 2pm EDT 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. More information about the 2011 NSDI CAP grants is available [here](#). Click [HERE](#) to register.
- **Tuesday, December 7, 2010, 2pm EDT Webinar:** This webinar, hosted by Sam Wear from Westchester County, NY GIS, will provide a demo on how to get started with a variety of easy-to-use geospatial viewers (ArcGIS Explorer, Google Earth, NASA World Wind, GAIA 3, etc.) that offer cost effective options in delivering, sharing, and viewing geospatial data and services. These viewers can be used to easily to consume and combine (a.k.a. "mash-up") Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) compliant map services with local datasets and other digital products. Steps on how to access and use map services (WMS, ArcIMS, KML/KMZ, others) and local shapefiles, and other application highlights will be discussed. Click

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To access past issues of *eRegions*, [visit our website.](#)

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

HERE to register.

HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Information:

NARC is collecting information on the awardees and projects for the recently announced U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grants. Click [HERE](#) to view the awardee information as compiled by NARC. Please contact Shannon Baxevanis, shannon@narc.org, to add or change information on this list. NARC looks forward to monitoring and working with the awardees to ensure the greatest successes for regionalism.

USDA Releases Report on the Impact of the Recovery Act on America's

Rural Communities: The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) released a report on how the agency, through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), has helped rural areas. The report estimates that the benefits include the creation or savings of over 300,000 jobs. Click [HERE](#) to access the report.

New Study Examines Vacant Property Rates: A new study from the Center for Community Progress has been released that examines the statistics and evaluates efforts on vacant properties throughout the country. The report, [Restoring Properties, Rebuilding Communities: Transforming Vacant Properties in Today's America](#), offers a systemic look at the problem and evaluates actions that can be taken by federal, state and local governments, as well as community organizations, private foundations, and real estate developers to stem the tide of increasing vacancy rates and meet the challenges presented by already vacant properties.

GAO Report on DHS and Critical Infrastructure Protection: The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report, "Critical Infrastructure Protection: DHS Efforts to Assess and Promote Resiliency Are Evolving but Program Management Could Be Strengthened," which analyzes and provides recommendations for improving U.S. Department of Homeland Security efforts on resiliency performance measures, guidelines, and the feasibility of developing an approach to disseminate resiliency information. Click [HERE](#) to access the report.

NARCPOLICY

The House and Senate are out of session in preparation of the upcoming Mid-Term 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 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.

MEMBER360

NARC Member Appointed to National Board: NARC member Chester R. Jourdan, Jr., the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission's (MORPC) Executive Director was elected to the American Highway Users Alliance Board of Directors for a three-year term. The American Highway Users Alliance is an advocacy organization serving as the united voice of the transportation community promoting safe, uncongested highways and enhanced freedom of mobility. NARC congratulates Mr. Jourdan on his well-deserved appointment. Click [HERE](#) to read the press release announcing the appointment. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the American Highway Users Alliance.

PARTNERUPDATES

ICMA Knowledge Network: Join the Conversation! It's Free! The International City/County 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.

GRANTOPPORTUNITIES

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 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.

Wednesday, November 3, 2010, 2pm EDT 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. More information about the 2011 NSDI CAP grants is available [here](#). Click [HERE](#) to register.

Thursday, November 4, 2010, 2pm EDT Webinar: The U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) will host a webinar on the recent changes to its grant making process. The webinar will be hosted by Assistant Secretary John Fernandez and Deputy Assistant Secretary Phil Paradice. Click [HERE](#) to register for the webinar or click [here](#) to access additional information on the changes to the grant making process.

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.

Tuesday, December 7, 2010, 2pm EDT Webinar: This webinar, hosted by Sam Wear from Westchester County, NY GIS, will provide a demo on how to get started with a variety of easy-to-use geospatial viewers (ArcGIS Explorer, Google Earth, NASA World Wind, GAIA 3, etc.) that offer cost effective options in delivering, sharing, and viewing geospatial data and services. These viewers can be used to easily to consume and combine (a.k.a. "mash-up") Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) compliant map services with local datasets and other digital products. Steps on how to access and use map services (WMS, ArcIMS, KML/KMZ, others) and local shapefiles, and other application highlights will be discussed. Click [HERE](#) to register.

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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