

Email not displaying correctly? Click [HERE](#) to view it as a PDF.



## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. X, No. 40, December 20, 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

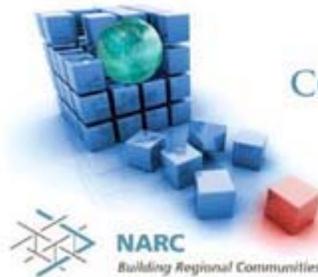
Colleagues,

In what has proven to be a busy lame duck Congress, some things got done and others didn't. For example, funding for the government runs out on Tuesday, but a negotiated three month Continuing Resolution (CR) is in the works for

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

[REGIONS360](#) [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*. Click [HERE](#) to access the current draft agenda; click [HERE](#) to register or contact Lindsey Riley at [lindsey@narc.org](mailto:lindsey@narc.org) or 202.986.1032 x220 for more information.

---

## **DIRECTORY** of **REGIONS**

passage. Surface transportation programs are authorized to continue if the CR passes. However, an omnibus spending bill for the year was pulled off the floor last week. Among other programs punted to the 112th Congress include FAA funding extension through March 31, when Congress will have to decide to reauthorize for the first time since 2007.

Swirling around what may be counted as the most “productive” lame duck session in history is the pending reveal of Census information. Tomorrow, the U.S. Census Bureau will release some initial results from the 2010 Census, including the population for the nation and the states, as well as Congressional apportionment totals. The Census Bureau is calculating House seats with western and southern states expected to gain and northern and mid-western states losing representation. This sets the tone for the 2012 election. Who decides new Congressional boundaries in each state is also of utmost

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 at [sylvia@narc.org](mailto:sylvia@narc.org) or 202.986.1032.

---

## NARCPROGRAM

**FEMA Releases Guide on Developing and Maintaining Emergency Operations Plans:** Last week the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) released Version 2.0 of the Comprehensive Preparedness Guide (CPG) 101: Developing and Maintaining Emergency Operations Plans for developing emergency operations plans. The goal of CPG 101 is to assist in making the planning process routine across all phases of emergency management and for all homeland security mission areas. This Guide helps planners at all levels of government in their efforts to develop and maintain viable, all-hazards, all-threats emergency plans. This new version places greater emphasis on representing and engaging the whole community—to include those with access and functional needs, children, and those with household pets and service animals. Click [HERE](#) to access the Guide.

**FEMA Launches Interactive Blog:** FEMA recently launched its first-ever blog as a communications tool with partners in emergency management. It will feature daily posts from FEMA Administrator Fugate and other senior leaders across our agency, as well as provide key resources for families and communities before, during and after a disaster. The blog can be accessed at [blog.fema.gov](http://blog.fema.gov).

**2010 Maturing of America II Survey Underway:** NARC urges towns, cities and counties to participate in the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a)-led national survey, sent to more than 10,000 local governments across the country. Click [HERE](#) for more information on how your local government can participate to showcase advances made by your community in preparing for the rapid aging of the population.

---

## NARCPOLICY

*The House and Senate are in lame duck session.*

**Senate Democrats Push Forward New Continuing Resolution:** After last week's failure of the House-passed year-long Continuing Resolution (CR), the

importance – making both the 2010 mid-term local elections and the 2012 national elections the most important of the decade. Local budgets based on population counts will also be affected.

Finally, if there is anything that will effect long term economic competitiveness in the United States, it's education. In a recent and stunning article in *The Atlantic* this month "[Your Child Left Behind](#)," once fixed for income, race, status and other variables, the U.S. lags significantly behind most developed countries in educational attainment in K-12. According to *The Atlantic*, "[o]nly 6 percent of U.S. students perform at the advanced-proficiency level in math, a share that lags behind kids in some 30 other countries." This is why NARC is working on ways to better examine education and economic development through recent conference sessions on early education with the [Pew Center](#). We hope to continue and expand this work next year.

Senate Democrats have unveiled a new CR that would increase government spending by \$1.16 billion through March 4, 2011. The legislation (HR 3082) is set for a vote tomorrow. The current stopgap funding measure (H J Res 105) expires tomorrow and requires quick action by Congress to keep the government and its programs funded. While increasing some program funding over the FY10 levels, the CR would also extend authority for current surface transportation programs. The House is expected to return tomorrow to take up the Senate's CR.

**House and Senate Consider Different Work Schedules Next Congress:**

Click [HERE](#) to view the 2011 House schedule. Click [HERE](#) to view the 2011 Senate schedule.

**Senate Passed Another Short-Term FAA Extension:** Last week, the Senate cleared another short-term extension (HR 6473) of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), pushing action until March 31, 2011. The FAA has operated without a long-term reauthorization since the end of FY07, and has been running on a series of short-term extensions. The current extension runs through the end of this calendar year.

**Republicans Redesign House Energy and Commerce Committee:** The incoming Republican House leadership unveiled plans last week to reorganize the House Energy and Commerce Committee by splitting the Energy and Environment Subcommittee into two subcommittees – Energy and Power; and Environment and Economy. The new Energy and Power Subcommittee, chaired by Congressman Whitfield (R-KY) will have jurisdiction over energy and Clean Air Act issues. The Environment and Economy Subcommittee, chaired by Congressman Skimkus (R-IL) will have jurisdiction on other environmental regulations and their economic effects.

---

## REGIONS360

**DVRPC Releases Multiple Reports and Studies:** The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC), serving the greater Philadelphia, PA region, released a number of studies and reports:

- DVRPC and Greenspace Alliance recently completed a study on the economic value of protected open space. Click [HERE](#) for a copy of the report and to access press coverage.
- For PennFuture, DVRPC recently completed a study estimating the

eRegions will not be back until next year; I hope you have a peaceful and restful holiday season!

Best,  
Fred

**NARCSTAFF**

**Fred Abousleman**

Executive Director

**Shannon Baxevanis**

Policy Manager

**Sylvia Bryant**

Office Manager

**Naomi Friedman**

Project Director

**Jenee Kresge**

Program Analyst

**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](#).

economic, property value, recreational, health, and environmental benefits of building out the existing waterfront greenway space in Philadelphia until it covered both sides of both rivers. Click [HERE](#) for a copy of the report.

- For the Redevelopment Authority of Philadelphia, DVRPC recently completed a study estimating the cost vacant land imposes on the City of Philadelphia and its residents, and the benefits that might accrue if it was managed in a more efficient manner that resulted in speedier redeployment of such parcels into development projects. Click [HERE](#) for a copy of the report and to access press coverage.

---

## 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

### **USDA Rural Community Development Initiative Funding - Deadline: December 22, 2010**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture requests proposals for the Rural Community Development Initiative. RCDI supports organization capacity and ability to undertake projects related to housing, community facilities, or community and economic development in rural areas. Areas of interest include, but are not limited to, programs that support micro-enterprise and sustainable development, and programs to assist recipients in completing pre-development requirements for housing, community facilities, or community and economic development projects by providing resources for professional services, e.g., architectural, engineering or legal. For more information, including state contacts, click [HERE](#).

### **National Spatial Data Infrastructure Cooperative Agreement Program (NSDI CAP) Grants - Deadline: January 7, 2011**

The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) has announced the release of the 2010 NSDI CAP grant applications. This grant opportunity supports organizations across the country develop and implement projects to support several phases of the NSDI. Categories for projects include: Metadata Trainer and Outreach Assistance, FGDC-endorsed Standards Implementation Training and Outreach, Fifty States Initiative-Strategic and Business Plan Development, Fifty States Initiative-Business Plan Development and Implementation, Return on Investment Methodology and Business Case Development for Multi-agency NSDI Projects and FGDC Standards Development Assistance. More information on the program is available [HERE](#) and additional information on the grant application process is available at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).

### **EPA Announces Funding for Assessment of Greenhouse Gases and Climate Impacts - Deadline: January 7, 2011**

EPA has available \$2 million to advance comprehensive, integrated modeling and assessment of multiple greenhouse gases and air pollutants.

Applications are due on January 7, 2011. Eligible entities include States, local governments, territories, Indian tribes, international organizations, public and private universities and colleges, hospitals, laboratories, other public or

private non-profit institutions. For-profit organizations are not eligible. For more information, click [HERE](#).

**Wallace Healthy Urban Food Enterprise Development (HUFED) Center –**  
*Deadline for LOI: January 14, 2011*

The HUFED Center supports greater access to healthy affordable food in communities across the country by providing grants and technical assistance for enterprise development and focus on getting more healthy food into communities. Implementation grants are available for nonprofit organizations to complete feasibility studies, as well as small and large enterprise projects. Additional information on the grants is available [here](#) and a [special outreach webinar for interested applicants](#) is scheduled for January 5, 2011.

**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.

**HUD Announces \$25 million through new Rural Innovation Fund**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) [announced](#) that \$25,750,000 will be available for grants made through the Rural Innovation Fund (RIF). RIF replaces HUD's former Rural Housing and Economic Development Program, and will award grants on a competitive basis to state housing finance agencies, community development corporations, state community and/or economic development agencies, local rural non-profit organizations, federally recognized Indian tribes and consortia of these eligible groups. Successful grant applications will propose new and innovative solutions to poor housing conditions and concentrated poverty in rural and tribal areas. HUD is particularly interested in proposals that incorporate an "entrepreneurial approach" to addressing these problems.

Eligible housing and economic development activities include: Commissioning architectural and engineering plans; Construction of innovative new housing units; Demolition and/or rehabilitation of existing housing units to increase sustainability and/or energy efficiency; Land acquisition; Homeownership counseling Revolving loan programs and microlending programs to establish or grow local businesses and create jobs; and, Direct financial assistance in the form of grants, loans and funding for Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) for affordable housing, entrepreneurship and economic development leading to job opportunities

A submission deadline has not yet been established. HUD officials indicated on December 2 that the application materials would be published through [Grants.gov](#) by December 10. The [RIF Notice of Funding Availability](#) (NOFA) indicates that the deadline will be 60 days from the date that application materials are published, so the deadline is likely to be February 8, 2011. The NOFA also indicates that HUD will host a webinar for interested applicants. Additional information on the [Rural Innovation Fund](#) and [HUD's grant funding procedures](#) are available online.

---

## UPCOMINGEVENTS

### ***10th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth Conference***

**February 3-5, 2011, Charlotte, NC:** Today, more than ever, we are faced with environmental and economic challenges that will define our generation, shape our future, and test our resilience as cities, regions, states and a nation. Join leaders from across the U.S. as we tackle these challenges head-on and demonstrate smart growth solutions that will reduce our dependence on foreign oil, create a green economy, assure a healthy population, and expand transportation and housing options for all Americans. There will be something for everybody, from veteran experts to smart-growth novices, with nearly 90 sessions and workshops. Plan to join us, and others, from across the U.S. for the smart growth event of the year! Visit [www.NewPartners.org](http://www.NewPartners.org) to get more details.

### ***2011 Good Jobs Green Jobs Conference***

**February 8-10, 2011, Washington, DC:** NARC and its *Pathways Out of Poverty* project team will present a workshop on February 8th on the importance of partnerships in regional workforce and economic development programs, entitled "Partnerships and Pathways: Keys to Success in Regional Green Jobs Training and Placement." The 2011 Conference is the leading forum for sharing ideas and strategies for building a green economy that

creates good jobs, reduces global warming and other environmental problems, and secures America's economic and environmental future. Click [here](#) for a full conference agenda and registration information.

***2011 National Conference of Regions***

**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.

***2011 Green Infrastructure Conference***

**February 23-25, 2010, Shepherdstown, WV:** The Conservation Fund and its partners will host speakers from across the country to discuss key elements for success and vital lessons-learned. Featured topics include green infrastructure and public health, social equity, transportation, economic development, climate change and more. For more information please click [here](#).

We are sending you this email primarily for your information, to meet your needs, further our valued relationship and because you requested to receive electronic newsletters from the National Association of Regional Councils. Please forward as appropriate.

[Unsubscribe](#) lindsey@narc.org from this list.

Our mailing address is:  
National Association of Regional Councils  
1666 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20009

[Add us to your address book](#)

Copyright (C) 2010 National Association of Regional Councils All rights reserved.

[Forward](#) this email to a friend  
[Update your profile](#)