



NARC

Building Regional Communities

National Association of Regional Councils

660 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 440

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www.NARC.org

NARC MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

The National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) is the premier organization providing services and resources to support regional leaders and multi-jurisdictional cooperation. Whether you are a long-standing member or a brand-new addition to our organization, we are pleased to offer you a wide range of benefits to help you serve your region more effectively:

NARC is Your Voice in Washington, DC

Working with our membership, NARC staff develops federal policy priorities to strengthen regions, multi-jurisdictional planning, and local governments. NARC is your advocate in Washington – ensuring that congressional members, administration officials, and their staff know who you are and what you do at the local level. We promote key transportation, community and economic development, public safety, and environmental legislative proposals on Capitol Hill that are critical to your success. We also develop comments on federal regulatory changes to make sure that the knowledge and expertise of regional councils influence their outcomes.

Additionally, NARC's legislative team provides you with the information and resources you need to advocate on behalf of your members and build relationships with your own congressional delegation. We work provide you the latest news on issues that impact your member communities, including federal infrastructure packages, automated vehicles, federal appropriations, the Farm Bill reauthorization, the 2020 Census, broadband deployment in underserved communities, and support of federally-funded, locally-controlled programs like CDBG and HOME. We also advise you on appropriate opportunities to voice your position on these important federal issues to your elected representatives or the administration.

Region-Focused Conferences

NARC members enjoy discounted fees for our three annual conferences. The National Conference of Regions, held in February in DC, focuses on federal policy issues affecting regions. NARC's Annual Conference, held in June and cohosted by a member regional council, gives you the opportunity to learn about the latest regional issues, trends, and best practices. The Executive Directors Conference, held in October and cohosted by a member regional council, provides top-notch training and best practice sharing to executive directors from regional councils of all sizes. All our conferences provide opportunities for you to discover something new to take home and try in your own region.

Networking with Colleagues

Regardless of if you are an executive director, elected official, or a staff member, NARC provides you with the opportunity to connect with your regional peers across the nation. We provide you with many occasions throughout the year to build a working relationship with a new colleague or reconnect with old friends. Through networking, members like you are always finding ways to collaborate on shared interests and are learning valuable lessons from one another's triumphs and challenges.

Leadership Opportunities

Members govern NARC, providing strategic leadership and policy direction for our organization. Our members have the chance to influence the organization's path forward through one of our two governing bodies: our Board of Directors, which consists of elected officials from county and city governments; or our Executive Directors Council, which consists of executive directors of regional councils. You also have the chance to lead one of our policy committees and working groups, which meet multiple times a year.



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Committees and Working Groups

NARC committees and working groups offer you the possibility to get more engaged with our activities and other members that share your interests. Our four policy committees – transportation, community and economic development, public safety, and environment – provide a forum to discuss the latest issues of regional importance and determine our federal policy priorities in these areas. The Major Metros Roundtable caters specifically to regional councils in the nation's largest metropolitan areas, allowing them the opportunity to exchange ideas and collaborate on projects of shared interest. Our Energy/Environment Working Group provides regional council staff members the opportunity to exchange related news and advocacy opportunities. The Communications Working Group brings together communications professionals from regional councils to talk about new and innovate ways to engage with citizens. Our Membership Committee recruits new NARC members and improves engagement with current members.

Programs & Research

Through NARC's programmatic work, our staff connects members with the latest ideas and research on a variety of issues, including: solar ready tools, green infrastructure, alternative fuel vehicle procurement, transportation scenario planning, regional food systems, and the impact of federal programs on the communities in your region. We gather success stories and best practices to provide you with valuable, actionable information for your regional council and the members you serve.

Weekly Newsletters

NARC publishes two weekly newsletters delivered to your inbox that feature timely news updates from Capitol Hill, the federal administration, and around the nation. Every Monday, *eRegions* provides you with the latest national news on a variety of topics and highlights great projects and programs from our member regions. Every Thursday, *Transportation Thursdays* offers a special spotlight on the newest issues, legislation, and trends in transportation. Each newsletter also connects you to valuable opportunities such as webinars and grants available to regional councils and local governments.

Member Assistance

We can help you identify the answers to challenges you face by connecting you with other members. NARC member assistance requests have covered topics such as use of labor market data, engaging elected officials, staffing levels, project database solutions, bylaws and dues structure, and policies and procedures. NARC members can also post job vacancies on our website for free, helping you spread the word through a wide network of regional council professionals.

Webinars

NARC works with our extensive network of contacts in federal agencies, partner local government associations, philanthropy organizations, and others to bring you topics on a wide range of key local issues from the comfort and convenience of your desk! Our webinars often feature members like you sharing their stories and lessons learned after undertaking innovative projects and programs. We also provide information on webinars from outside resources that regions may find value in attending.

Grants Information

Every week, our staff identifies grants offered through the federal government, foundations, and private organizations that might offer support for programs at your regional council and expand opportunities for funding critical local programs.