



NARC

Building Regional Communities

National Association of Regional Councils

777 North Capitol Street, NE, Suite 305

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www.NARC.org

TOP TEN REASONS TO BELONG TO NARC

1. NARC is Your Voice in Washington, DC

Working with our membership, NARC staff develops federal legislative proposals to strengthen regions, planning, and local governments. From transportation funding to workforce investment, NARC is your advocate in Washington – ensuring that Congressional Members, Agency Management and their staff know who you are and what you do at the local level. We advocate for key community and economic development, transportation, workforce development, public safety and environmental legislative proposals critical to the success of regional and local governments.

And if you want to be more active with your delegation, NARC's legislative tools provide you with the timely information you need to advocate on behalf of your region on the federal budget, reauthorization and funding bills, and proposals that support planning at the regional and local levels.

But the action in Washington is not only in Congress. Federal agencies issue regulations every day that impact the programs that regional councils depend on and help implement. In partnership with our membership, NARC develops comments on these regulatory changes to ensure that the expertise of regional councils influences their outcomes.

2. Leadership

Members govern NARC - through the Board of Directors, which consists of elected officials from county and city governments; the Executive Directors Council, which consists of the executive directors of regional councils; and through a variety of policy and other committees and task forces. These entities provide the strategic leadership and policy direction for the Association. Only active members have the opportunity to participate in the governance of NARC.

3. Conferences

NARC members enjoy discounted fees for our three annual conferences: The National Conference of Regions, held in February in DC, focuses on federal legislative and policy issues; NARC's Annual Conference, held in June and cohosted by a member regional council, focuses on best practices in regional government; and the Executive Directors Training, which provides top-notch training to executive directors from regional councils of all sizes. All conferences feature nationally recognized policy leaders and provide opportunities to learn something that you can implement in your region.

4. Newsletters

NARC publishes two weekly newsletters delivered to your inbox that feature timely news updates from Capitol Hill, the Administration and around the nation. *E-regions* is sent to members each Monday, and *Transportation Thursdays* is sent directly to transportation members. In addition, all members receive our monthly *Development Digest*, which highlights economic development, housing and important finance issues. In addition to the latest news, these newsletters connect you to valuable opportunities such as webinars and available federal and foundation grants.



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5. 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! We also provide information on webinars and other information from our partners to help you stay informed.

6. Website

Membership dues support our website, www.narc.org, a portal that lets you find the latest news, informative research, meeting schedules, other opportunities and advocacy updates to keep abreast of issues that could affect your community. NARC members can also post job vacancies on our website for free.

7. Networking with Colleagues

No one understands the business of regional councils better than your colleagues from across the nation. NARC members share their triumphs and challenges through three conferences each year, social media and other meetings and programs.

8. Member Assistance

NARC staff helps members identify the answers to challenges you face. In 2015, NARC member assistance requests covered topics such as use of labor market data, engaging elected officials, staffing levels, project database solutions, and bylaws and dues structure.

9. Grants Information

Every week, NARC 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.

10. NARC Research

Through NARC's grant work, NARC staff connects members with the latest ideas and research on a variety of issues. Development of solar ready tools, green infrastructure, workforce development, emergency management and the impact of Federal programs on your community are a few of the topics that provide valuable, actionable information to regional councils and the communities they serve.