

August 6, 2018 [View this email in your browser](#)



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

eREGIONS

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

Senate's Out for Truncated August Recess

Like every hot August in Washington, Senate and House members have gone home to recharge, meet with residents, and in some cases, get an early start on the campaign trail. For members of the House, their recess will continue through the end of the month. But for senators, the break will only last for one week. When the Senate returns on August 15, they will deliberate and vote on a couple of judicial nominees for the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Senators will also begin to get the wheels turning on their next fiscal year 2019 appropriations package, which is likely to include the Defense and Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bills.

Senate Passes Another Appropriations Package, Approves Four More Bipartisan Funding Bills

Senate Appropriations Chairman Shelby (R-AL) applauded the 92-6 vote in favor of a **four-bill appropriations package**, including Interior-Environment; Financial Services and General Government; Transportation-Housing and Urban Development (HUD); and Agriculture. The package includes \$154.76 billion in base discretionary funds to priorities in the Departments of Interior, Treasury, Agriculture, Transportation, HUD, and the Environmental Protection Agency. Senate Appropriations Vice Chairman Leahy (D-VT) also **approved of the process**, highlighting the willingness of senators to reach a bipartisan compromise and to reject the poison policy riders and controversial authorizing language that the House has been pursuing. The Senate has now passed 7 of its 12 fiscal year appropriations bills ahead of the Sept. 30 deadline.

Another Short-Term Extension for Flood Insurance Program

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) was extended again this week, just hours shy of the program's expiration. This extension carries through November 30, coinciding with the conclusion of the Atlantic hurricane season. This marks the seventh short-term extension since last September, and more are likely. The House has passed a full five-year reauthorization, but the Senate has not taken any action on that bill or on its own version of a reauthorization. Significant concerns exist around the financial viability of the NFIP, which pays out more in emergencies than it collects in premiums and is currently in arrears by tens of billions of dollars. Reform of the program has been a goal for some in Congress, but this controversy makes a full reauthorization more challenging.

Senate Moves Forward with Farm Bill Conference Committee, Appoints Senate Conferees

The Senate has voted to move forward with the 2018 Farm Bill Conference Committee. They have also announced the selection of nine senators to serve on the committee. In a joint statement, Senators Roberts and Stabenow said, "this strong group of Senate conferees knows how to work together on a bipartisan basis to get the Farm Bill across the finish line. We look forward to beginning the conference process so we can provide certainty to our farmers, families, and rural communities." The first public conference committee meeting is likely to take place sometime next month. As the deadline nears, NARC has sent letters to House and Senate leadership with the **Campaign for Renewed Rural Development** and with the **National League of Cities** to outline local and regional priorities for the final version of the Farm Bill.

REGION SPOTLIGHT

Eastgate Partners on Inaugural “Future of Transportation” Summer Camp

The Summer Manufacturing Institute in Youngstown, Ohio is an opportunity for children grades four through six to learn about careers in manufacturing. In conjunction with regional partners, Eastgate Regional Council of Governments developed a curriculum to teach campers about transportation planning factors and the adoption of connected and autonomous vehicles. They also learned about careers in transportation, street design, concept development, budgeting, scaling to fit, and soldering. At the end of the week, the campers designed and constructed a city that was used to test autonomous vehicles along Ohio's Smart Mobility Corridor.

PAG Supports Summer Youth Art Project

The Pima Association of Governments (PAG) has a Transportation Art by Youth Program giving students the opportunity to work on art projects that are incorporated into regional transportation projects. In partnership with the Southern Arizona Arts & Cultural Alliance and the Town of Oro Valley, this year's project has been done at the entrance of the Oro Valley Community Center. When finished, it will include a free-standing sculpture and a vibrant mosaic. The art piece ties together themes of multi-generational diversity, community connectedness, wellness, engagement, activity, health, public recreation, and transportation.

REGIONS LEAD

Visit www.regionslead.org to read up on the latest NARC blogs. We invite members to submit blogs to the site too. Please send contributions to cameron@narc.org.

President Seeks to Increase Job Opportunities for America's Unskilled Workers

By Neil Bomberg

On Thursday, July 18, the president signed an executive order that creates the Council for the American Worker. Led by the secretaries of commerce and labor, the Council is expected to focus on reorganizing federal workforce development programs and generating funding for new job training initiatives, especially apprenticeships and older worker training.

FEATURED JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Director Southern Nevada Strong

Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada, Las Vegas, NV

Transportation Travel Demand Modeler

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, Pittsburgh, PA

Senior Quality Assurance Analyst

San Diego Association of Governments, San Diego, CA

Parks and Recreation Director

City of Kinston, Kinston, NC

FUNDING

[View full list of grants!](#)

FTA Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Infrastructure Investment Program

Applications Due: August 6

The U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has announced the opportunity to apply for approximately \$366.3 million in fiscal year 2018 competitive grant funding for transit bus projects nationwide. The Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Infrastructure Investment Program is authorized by Congress to improve the condition of bus infrastructure nationwide by funding the replacement and rehabilitation of buses and related facilities. Projects eligible for this funding opportunity include those that replace, rehabilitate, lease, or purchase buses and related equipment as well as projects to purchase, rehabilitate, construct, or lease bus-related facilities, such as buildings for bus storage and maintenance.

USDA's Rural Housing Preservation Grants

Applications Due: August 9

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Housing Service (RHS) is soliciting applications under its Housing Preservation Grant (HPG) program. The HPG program provides qualified public agencies and nonprofit organizations grant funds to assist very low- and low-income homeowners in repairing and rehabilitating their homes in rural areas. In addition, the HPG program assists rental property owners and cooperative housing complexes in repairing and rehabilitating their units if they agree to make such units available to low- and very low-income persons.

Gang Suppression Planning Grants Program

Applications Due: August 27

The U.S. Department of Justice's Gang Suppression Planning Grants Program is designed to reduce violent crime, gangs, and victimization and promote public safety in communities through planning support to eligible localities to build capacity for a multilateral data-driven strategy.

Funding will support

selected jurisdictions to undertake strategic planning and capacity-building work through multidisciplinary and community partnerships. The overall goals of the Gang Suppression Planning Grants Program are to:

- Understand the jurisdiction's gang landscape and be able to use data (gang intelligence) to develop effective gang control strategies;
- Reduce and sustain reductions in community youth violence, particularly gun and gang violence, and victimization;
- Prevent violence and promote healing from victimization and exposure to violence in the home, school, and community; and
- Increase the safety, well-being, and healthy development of children, youth, and families.

Public Humanities Projects

Applications Due: August 29

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Public Humanities Projects program supports projects that bring the ideas and insights of the humanities to life for general audiences through in-person programming. Projects must engage humanities scholarship to analyze significant themes in disciplines such as history, literature, ethics, and art history. NEH encourages projects that involve members of the public in collaboration with humanities scholars or that invite contributions from the community in the development and delivery of humanities programming. Applications should follow the parameters set out below for one of the following three categories:

- **Community Conversations:** Supports three-month-long to two-year-long series of at least six in-person public programs that are centered on one or more significant humanities resources, such as historic artifacts, artworks, literature, musical compositions, or films. These resources should be chosen to engage a diverse public audience.
- **Exhibitions:** Supports the creation of permanent exhibitions and single-site temporary exhibitions, as well as travelling exhibitions that will be available to public audiences in at least two venues in the United States.
- **Historic Places:** Supports long-term interpretive programs for historic sites, houses, neighborhoods, and regions that are intended to be presented to the public for at least three years. Such programs might include living history presentations, guided tours, exhibitions, and public programs.

Fiscal Year 2018 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Program

Applications Due: September 17

The U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) **has announced** more than \$318 million in grant funding for its CRISI program. This grant program funds projects that improve intercity passenger and freight rail transportation safety, efficiency, and reliability. It also helps finance much needed critical investment to rural America, directing at least 25 percent of available funds towards rural communities. Selection preference will be given to projects with a 50 percent non-federal funding match from any combination of private, state, or local funds. The USDOT will also consider how well the project aligns with its key objectives, including supporting economic vitality; leveraging federal funding; preparing for life-cycle costs;

using innovative approaches to improve safety and expedite project delivery; and holding grant recipients accountable for achieving specific, measurable outcomes.

HUD's Continuum of Care Program

Applications Due: September 18

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is making \$2.1 billion available in fiscal year 2018 for the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program. The program is designed to promote a community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness. It provides funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, states, and local governments to quickly re-house homeless individuals, families, persons fleeing domestic violence, and youth while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused by homelessness. It also strives to promote access and utilization of mainstream programs by the homeless, and to optimize self-sufficiency among those experiencing homelessness.

Increasing Social Connectedness for Older Adults

Applications Due: September 28

The AARP Foundation is seeking applicants with evidence-based, innovative solutions positioned for exponential growth to bring to scale proven approaches that increase social support and connectedness among hundreds of thousands of low-income older adults. This funding opportunity requires a 1:1 dollar match (cash or in-kind) from one or more other funding sources. If you do not have matching funding for your requested grant amount, you must detail a plan for raising the matching funds in your application.

Tackling Senior Food Insecurity

Applications Due: September 28

The AARP Foundation is seeking applicants with evidence-based, innovative solutions positioned for exponential growth to bring to scale proven approaches that increase food security among hundreds of thousands of low-income older adults. This funding opportunity requires a 1:1 dollar match (cash or in-kind) from one or more other funding sources. If you do not have matching funding for your requested grant amount, you must detail a plan for raising the matching funds in your application.

RESTORE Act Direct Component - Construction and Real Property Acquisition Activities

Applications Due: September 28

Under the *Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012 (RESTORE Act)*, the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund (Trust Fund) was established in the Treasury of the United States. Eighty percent of the civil penalties paid after July 6, 2012, under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act in connection with the Deepwater Horizon oil spill will be deposited into the Trust Fund, invested, and dispersed. This notice is only for applications for eligible construction and real property acquisition activities, including projects with or without a non-federal share for another federally-funded project. Trust Fund amounts are available to carry out the following eligible activities described in the *RESTORE Act* (activities 1-7 must be carried out in the Gulf Coast region):

1. Restoration and protection of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast region.
2. Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, and natural resources.
3. Implementation of a federally-approved marine, coastal, or comprehensive conservation management plan, including fisheries monitoring.
4. Workforce development and job creation.
5. Improvements to or on state parks located in coastal areas affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.
6. Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure.
7. Coastal flood protection and related infrastructure.
8. Planning assistance.
9. Administrative costs.
10. Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast region, including recreational fishing.
11. Promotion of the consumption of seafood harvested from the Gulf Coast region.

Strategic Economic and Community Development

Applications Due: September 30

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA)-Rural Development Strategic Economic and Community Development (SECD) is a Farm Bill provision that allows USDA to give priority for projects that support the implementation of regional economic development plans through the following four USDA Rural Development programs: Community Facilities Loans, Grants, and Loan Guarantees; Water and Waste Disposal Program Loans, Grants, and Loan Guarantees; Business & Industry Program Loan Guarantees; and Rural Business Development Grants. To be eligible for SECD, a project must: be eligible for the underlying program; be carried out solely in a rural area; and support a multi-jurisdictional strategic economic community development plan. To apply for SECD priority points, applicants must submit **Form RD 1980-88** by the application deadline of the program(s) you are applying for or September 30, 2018, whichever comes first.

EVENTS

View full list of events!

Toward an Equitable Region: Lessons from Baltimore's Sustainable Communities Initiative

August 7, 1:00-2:30 PM ET

In many communities, local leaders and stakeholders are interested in helping residents access jobs, quality educations, affordable housing, healthcare, and other opportunities. This Enterprise webinar convenes a group of experts who have been working in support of these goals in Baltimore. Panelists will reflect on the process and lessons learned in the creation of Baltimore's 2015 Regional Plan for Sustainable Development, which aimed to improve the area's sustainability while decreasing social disparities. They will also discuss some of the challenges and opportunities of advancing cross-sector drivers for change which are highlighted in the new report *Toward an Equitable Region: Lessons from Baltimore's Sustainable Communities Initiative*.

engAGED: Increasing Social Engagement for Older Adults

August 15, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

Join the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) for the final installment in a five-part webinar series, engAGED: Increasing Social Engagement for Older Adults, focused on increasing the engagement of older adults to promote health and wellness. Older Adults Technology Services will be highlighting resources and focusing on best practices for engaging older adults through technology.

Broadening the Housing Movement: Learn More About the Opportunity Starts at Home Campaign

August 16, 3:00-4:00 PM ET

Opportunity Starts at Home is a long-term, multi-sector campaign to meet the housing needs of the nation's low-income people. The research continues to mount that housing is inextricably linked to nearly every measure of having a quality life: education, health care, civil rights, economic mobility, poverty reduction, economic productivity and growth, social unity, homeless prevention, veterans care, and more. As such, various sectors are recognizing that affordable homes are inextricably linked to their own priorities and concerns. This webinar is open to individuals and organizations that are interested in learning more about the Opportunity Starts at Home campaign. Attendees will learn about the campaign's progress, short- and long-term plans, policy advocacy goals, and ways to get involved.

Addressing Health, Hunger, and Poverty: County Approaches to SNAP

August 22, 12:00-1:00 PM ET

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) serves as a domestic hunger safety net and is the nation's largest program for reducing hunger. By partnering with counties, multiple state agencies, and community organizations, this federal program provides food assistance and education to many low-income individuals and families. In the ten SNAP county-administered states, counties often contribute substantial local funds to administrative and supplemental costs of the program. Join the National Association of Counties (NACo) to learn more about how counties are using SNAP to address poverty and increase access to nutritious healthy foods in their communities. This webinar will feature an overview of the SNAP program and will highlight

county examples of work being done on SNAP through county agencies and local county partnerships.

Opioids: Recovery, Prevention, & Hope: National Experts Equip Faith and Community Leaders

September 27, 1:00-2:00 PM ET

Live from Washington D.C., the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will convene national leaders and experts to talk about the opioid epidemic and other addictions to raise awareness, encourage compassion, reinforce the role of community and families in long-term recovery and prevention, and make a call to action. HHS encourages you to host a post-broadcast conversation in your community with local experts and discuss approaches that will foster healing for individuals and families and align regional efforts to renew wholeness in your community. This event will be livestreamed at [HHS.gov/live](https://www.hhs.gov/live).

Gaining Project Support from Your Team, Elected Officials, and the Public

November 14, 2:00-3:30 PM ET

This International City/County Management Association (ICMA) webinar will cover the following topics:

1. What's key to presenting your idea or project effectively?
2. How can everyone play a role in leading and supporting productive change?
3. What can we learn from case studies about how to navigate and serve successfully?

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