

December 10, 2018 [View this email in your browser](#)



Registration for NARC's 2019 National Conference of Regions is now open! NARC's 2019 National Conference of Regions is Sunday, February 10 - Wednesday, February 13, 2019 at the Washington Court Hotel. **Register for the conference today** to take advantage of the early-bird rates, which are available now through January 4, 2019. **Hotel reservations* can also be made now.** Take a look at our **draft agenda** today.

*Please note that there is a maximum of 3 reservations that can be made in any single name.

The conference will open with a mobile workshop at 1pm on Sunday, followed by an informal gathering at 5pm for anyone interested in joining the Annual Conference planning committee and the Opening Reception (onsite at the hotel) at 6pm. The Executive Directors Council will meet on Monday afternoon and the Board will meet on Tuesday afternoon, concluding by 5pm. The Board dinner will be Monday evening and details will be shared with the Board members as they are confirmed. The conference will conclude following our Wednesday morning session, expected to be held on the Hill once again. Exact times may change, but these can be used for planning/travel purposes.

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

The House and Senate are in session.

NARC Aging Survey Needs Your Response!

NARC would like to learn more about the kinds of senior services regional councils provide to create a repository of information about those services, create a peer-to-peer network of experts on senior services that can assist other regions wishing to develop or expand services to seniors, and generate recommendations that we will share with Congress and the Administration when the *Older Americans Act* (OAA) comes up for reauthorization next year.

Last week, we distributed a brief questionnaire to regional councils across the nation so that we can learn which and how many regional councils provide direct services to seniors. This questionnaire should take no more than 10 minutes to complete. The information you provide will be very helpful to us as we embark on this multi-faceted project. We would greatly appreciate it if you would return the survey by December 21, 2018. If you have not received the questionnaire and would like to complete it, please [click here](#). If you have any questions about the questionnaire, please contact Neil Bomberg (neil@narc.org) or Lizeth Gonzalez (lizeth@narc.org). Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Possible Action on Farm Bill This Week

According to *Bloomberg Government*, the official Farm Bill conference report is likely to be signed by House and Senate negotiators today and be released publicly tomorrow. The top House and Senate agricultural committee leaders reported last week that they had reached a tentative deal, but the conference report was delayed due to former President George H. W. Bush's passing. This means that we could possibly see congressional action on the Farm Bill as soon as this week.

EPA Finds States Meet “Good Neighbor” Obligations for the 2008 Ozone Standard

Last week, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) determined that the 2016 Cross State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR) Update satisfies “good neighbor” standards for the 2008 national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for ground-level ozone. This standard obligation under the *Clean Air Act* requires upwind states to control their emissions to not cause air quality issues for downwind states. The latest EPA air quality data and modeling predict that by 2023, there will be no remaining nonattainment or maintenance areas for the 2008 ozone NAAQS in the CSAPR Update region (which is in most of the eastern US). Because of this positive update, EPA and these 20 states have no obligation to establish additional requirements for sources to satisfy the “good neighbor” standards.

Please Provide Feedback on the *MOBILE Now Act*!

We have been working with the General Services Administration (GSA) on providing feedback on the *MOBILE NOW Act*, which requires GSA to study potential incentives for states and local governments to voluntarily provide information about real property that could support a communications facility installation and determine the feasibility of compiling that information into a database. The *Act* requires GSA to provide a report to Congress on its findings. GSA has released **this survey** to gather feedback on these topics. The survey should take approximately 6 minutes to complete. Please take a few minutes to provide your insight and represent your region. The deadline to submit surveys is this Friday, December 14. If you have any questions, please email Maci Morin at maci.morin@narc.org.

OTHER NEWS

Learn About and Participate in FEMA’s National Exercise Program

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)’s National Exercise Program is a two-year cycle of exercises across the nation that examine and validate capabilities in all preparedness mission areas: protection, prevention, mitigation, response, and recovery. As Goal #1 for FEMA’s **Strategic Plan**, the agency is committed to building a culture of preparedness by providing partners with exercise design and delivery assistance, tools and resources, and more. To learn more about exercise design assistance and the benefits of participating in the National Exercise Program, FEMA is hosting the following one-hour webinar opportunities (log on information available below the webinar list):

- Webinar 1: 1 PM ET, Wednesday, Dec. 12
- Webinar 2: 1 PM ET, Monday, Dec. 17
- Webinar 3: 1 PM ET, Wednesday, Jan. 9
- Webinar 4: 1 PM ET, Tuesday, Jan. 15

Via *FEMA Teleconference*: 1-800-320-4330, Participant passcode: 559550

Via *FEMA Adobe Connect*: <https://fema.connectsolutions.com/nepoverview/>. Sign in as a “Guest” and mute your line if not speaking.

Rural and Lower-Income Counties Lag Nation in Internet Subscription

The **2013-2017 American Community Survey** released last week shows that while 78 percent of American households subscribe to the internet, households in both rural and lower-income counties trail the national average by 13 points. Mapping this data shows that counties with higher subscription rates tend to be in or around urban areas, especially those along both coasts. In counties with median incomes of less than \$50,000, internet subscription rates are roughly 65 percent. “Completely rural” lower-income counties fare the worst with an average internet subscription rate of 61.7 percent – much lower than the 79.9 percent subscription rate of higher-income counties that are “mostly urban.”

Checking in on a Census ‘Homework Assignment’ for Cities and Counties

In September, a regional manager for the U.S. Census Bureau had a homework assignment for cities and counties: forming local Complete Count Committees (CCCs) to help facilitate cross-sector outreach in communities to promote the 2020 Census. Many local governments have taken steps since then to form their own CCCs, including El Paso, Texas; Coconino County and the city of Flagstaff, AZ; and Allegheny County and the city of Pittsburgh, PA. Interested in forming a CCC for your region? Visit the Census Bureau’s **Complete Count Committees** page for more information.

REGIONAL SPOTLIGHT

Youngstown Gets \$10.8 Million Grant to Improve Central Business District

Youngstown, Ohio has been awarded a \$10.8 million BUILD (Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Developments) federal grant by the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT). The funds will support a critical infrastructure project that will provide autonomous transit shuttles, transit waiting environments, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, green infrastructure such as permeable surfaces and LED lighting, streetscaping, and wayfinding to connect anchor institutions. Jim Kinnick, Executive Director of the Eastgate Regional Council of Governments, said, "Eastgate is excited to be the recipient of the \$10.85 million USDOT BUILD Grant for the SMART2 Network. This grant will allow us to capitalize on the synergy in our urban core and expand the connectivity to the entire Mahoning Valley."

SCAG Hosts Annual Southern California Economic Summit

Last Thursday, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), in partnership with the Southern California Leadership Council, hosted the Ninth Annual Southern California Economic Summit. More than 400 local civic and business leaders gathered at the event to assess the current state of the region's economy and discuss how they can keep it thriving. Topics discussed at this year's summit include: the recovery and lessons learned from the Southern California wildfires; what's next for the Southern California economy; and the future of transportation: exponential growth in California's hottest sector. Find a SCAG press release regarding the summit [here](#).

FEATURED JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Program Coordinator II

West Florida Regional Planning Council, Destin, FL

Planner I

West Florida Regional Planning Council, Destin, FL

Grants Assistant

West Florida Regional Planning Council, Destin, FL

Assistant Planner

Puget Sound Regional Council, Seattle, WA

Transportation Planner

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, Pittsburgh, PA

FUNDING

[View full list of grants!](#)

AmeriCorps State and National Grants FY 2019

Letter of Intent Due: December 12; Applications Due: January 30, 2019

Through AmeriCorps, the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) has helped to engage millions of citizens in meeting community and national challenges through service and volunteer action. In the FY 2019 AmeriCorps competition, CNCS seeks to prioritize the investment of national service resources in economic opportunity, education, healthy futures, veterans and military families, rural intermediaries, safer communities, and faith-based organizations. Organizations that propose to operate in only one state must apply through the Governor-appointed State or Territory Commissions. Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit a Notification of Intent to apply for this competition, but it is not required.

Water & Waste Disposal Technical Assistance & Training Grants

Applications Due: December 31

This program helps qualified nonprofits provide technical assistance and training to identify and evaluate solutions to water and waste problems; helps applicants prepare applications for water and waste disposal loans/grants; and helps associations improve the operation and maintenance of water and waste facilities in eligible rural areas.

FY 2019 Enhanced Training and Services to End Abuse in Later Life Program

Applications Due: January 08, 2019

The Enhanced Training and Services to End Abuse in Later Life Program provides or enhances training and services to address elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, involving victims who are 50 years of age or older. Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit a Letter of Intent to OVW.Elder@usdoj.gov by December 18, 2018.

Enhancing Agricultural Opportunities for Military Veterans Competitive Grants Program

Applications Due: January 10, 2019

The Enhancing Agricultural Opportunities for Military Veterans Program provides grants to nonprofits to increase the number of military veterans gaining knowledge and skills through comprehensive, hands-on, and immersive model farm and ranch programs offered regionally that lead to successful careers in the food and agricultural sector. Projects will offer onsite, hands-on training and classroom education leading to a comprehensive understanding of successful farm and ranch operations and management practices. Projects may also offer workforce readiness and employment prospects for service-disabled veterans.

Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP) – Planning

Applications Due: January 15, 2019

The purpose of RCORP - Planning is to support treatment for and prevention of substance use disorder, including opioid use disorder (OUD), in rural counties at the highest risk for substance use disorder. The overall goal of RCORP-Planning is to reduce the morbidity and mortality associated with opioid overdoses in high-risk rural communities by multi-sector consortiums planning to strengthen their organizational and infrastructural capacity to address one or more of the following focus areas at the community, county, state, and/or regional levels: prevention, treatment, and recovery.

FY 2019 Brownfields Multipurpose, Assessment, and Cleanup Grants

Applications Due: January 31, 2019

Grants offered by the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Brownfields Program may be used to address sites contaminated by hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants (including hazardous substances co-mingled with petroleum) and petroleum. Opportunities for funding are as follows:

- **Multipurpose Grants** – Each proposal is funded up to \$800,000 over five years. EPA anticipates selecting 10 proposals.
- **Assessment Grants** – Community-wide and site-specific proposals are each funded up to \$200,000 over three years; Assessment Coalition proposals are funded up to \$600,000 over three years. EPA anticipates selecting 114 proposals.
- **Cleanup Grants** – Each proposal is funded up to \$500,000 over three years. EPA anticipates selecting 40 proposals.

EPA will host one outreach webinar on December 11 at 2pm to assist applicants with understanding the Multipurpose, Assessment, and Cleanup Grant Guidelines. Participants can join [here](#) and/or dial into the audio conference line at 1-866-299-3188 / access code: 202-566-1817.

Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program

Applications Due: January 31, 2019

The Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program (FMA) provides funding to states, territories, federally-recognized tribes, and local communities for projects and planning that reduces or eliminates long-term risk of flood damage to structures insured under the National Flood Insurance Program. FMA funding is also available for management costs. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requires state, tribal, and local governments to develop and adopt hazard mitigation plans as a condition for receiving certain types of non-emergency disaster assistance, including funding for Hazard Mitigation Assistance projects. Generally, local communities will sponsor applications on behalf of homeowners and then submit the applications to their state.

Environmental Justice Small Grants Program

Applications Due: February 15, 2019

The Environmental Justice Small Grants (EJSG) program awards grants that support community-driven projects designed to engage, educate, and empower communities to better understand local environmental and public health issues and develop strategies for addressing those issues, building consensus in the community, and setting community priorities. The EJSG program will award approximately \$1.5 million nationwide for this competitive opportunity. EPA anticipates awarding approximately 50 grants (5 per EPA region) of up to \$30,000 each. These grants are for one-year projects. Given projected increases in extreme weather events and the vulnerability of underserved populations, this opportunity will emphasize projects that address emergency preparedness and increase resiliency, as well as projects that include the needs of US military veterans and homeless populations.

National Rural Health Policy, Community, and Collaboration Program

Applications Due: February 28, 2019

The purpose of this program is to identify, engage, educate, and collaborate with rural stakeholders on national rural health policy issues and promising practices to improve the health of people living in rural communities nationwide. Program objectives include: identifying and educating rural stakeholders about national policy issues and promising practices for rural health; maintaining projects that will help support engagement of rural communities in a broad range of activities; facilitating partnerships and collaborations at the local, regional, state, and national levels to improve the exchange of information and promising practices that support rural health; and identifying and promoting broader collaborative federal efforts to support, promote, and address unique rural health issues.

Base Center Program

Applications Due: April 28, 2019

The purpose of the Administration for Children and Families' Basic Center Program (BCP) is to provide temporary shelter and counseling services to youth who have left home without permission of their parents or guardians, who have been forced to leave home, or who might otherwise end up in law enforcement, child welfare, mental health, or juvenile justice systems. BCPs work to establish or strengthen community-based programs that meet the immediate needs of runaway and homeless youth and their families. BCPs provide youth under 18 years of age with emergency shelter, food, clothing, counseling, and referrals for health care. The award process for FY2019 BCP allows for annual awards over a three-year project period, as funds are available.

Community Collaborations to Strengthen and Preserve Families

Applications Due: May 3, 2019

This funding opportunity funds cooperative agreements that support the development, implementation, and evaluation of strategies that prevent child maltreatment, reduce entry into the public child welfare system, and enhance the overall well-being outcomes of children and families. Funding will be used to improve the safety and stability of all families and reinforce supportive, nurturing relationships by: enhancing the capacity of communities to offer broad-based family supports; using data to inform and align strategies across sectors to address site-specific barriers; supporting strategic collaborations with traditional family-serving agencies and non-traditional partners; and coordinating, monitoring, and reporting on strategies and outcomes across multi-sector partners. The project period is for 5 years.

Career Pathways Secondary Data Analysis Grants

Applications Due: May 31, 2019

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) plans to fund Career Pathways Secondary Data Analysis Grants to support secondary analysis of data collected to rigorously evaluate a collection of career pathways programs. Career pathways programs provide post-secondary education and training organized as a series of manageable steps leading to successively higher credentials and employment opportunities in growing occupations. ACF's Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation oversees a robust research portfolio evaluating the implementation and effectiveness of career pathways programs, including the Pathways for Advancing Careers and Education (PACE) Evaluation and the Health Profession Opportunity Grants (HPOG) Program. These grants would support rigorous, policy-relevant secondary analysis of the core data sets to add to the body of knowledge and gain a deeper understanding of the implementation and

effectiveness of career pathways programs.

Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantee

Applications Due: September 30, 2019

The Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an Agency of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), has announced that it is accepting applications for fiscal year 2019 for the Rural Broadband Access Loans and Loan Guarantees Program (the Broadband Program). The Broadband Program furnishes loans and loan guarantees to provide funds for the costs of construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment needed to provide service at the broadband lending speed in eligible rural areas.

Partners for Fish and Wildlife

Applications Due: September 30, 2019

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) Program is a voluntary, incentive-based program that provides direct technical assistance and financial assistance in the form of cooperative and grant agreements to private landowners to restore and conserve fish and wildlife habitat for the benefit of federal trust resources. Partners for Fish and Wildlife program staff coordinate with project partners, stakeholders, and other Fish and Wildlife Service programs to identify geographic focus areas and develop habitat conservation priorities within these focus areas. Project work plans are developed strategically, in coordination with partners, and with substantial involvement from Fish and Wildlife Service field staff. Applicants seeking technical or financial assistance from the PFW program are requested to consult with the Regional PFW program office before developing or applying. Private lands include, but are not limited to: tribal, Hawaiian homeland, city, municipality, non-governmental, and private fee-title properties.

EVENTS

[View full list of events!](#)

Broadening the Apprenticeship Pipeline

December 11, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

Apprenticeship and other forms of work-based learning are important tools for helping workers acquire skills employers need. To reach the most workers and businesses, work needs to be done to diversify the apprenticeship pipeline to include more women, low-wage workers, and parents of young children. Join National Skills Coalition staff Melissa Johnson and Katie Spiker and their partners from Mississippi Women in Construction, Julie Kuklinski, and Mississippi Low-Income Childhood Initiative, Matt Williams, to discuss the importance of affordable childcare to ensuring that a broad pipeline of workers have access to and succeed in pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs and how Mississippi is working towards this goal.

Financing Public Health Infrastructure

December 11, 2:30-4:00 PM ET

Given that Americans deserve the same level of public health protection, it is crucial that every health department across the country be proficient in a definable set of core capabilities. Join the Bipartisan Policy Center on December 11 to learn about the importance of financing public health infrastructure in the United States. During the event, panelists will examine the findings of a new white paper by The Public Health Leadership Forum, which was convened by RESOLVE. The paper will identify the key principles for financing state and local public health issues and the elements of a new proposed public health infrastructure fund.

Global Cities Team Challenge Rural Health Initiative

December 13, 1:00-2:00 PM ET

The GCTC Smart Agriculture and Rural SuperCluster, which is facilitated by the National Telecommunications and Infrastructure Administration and National Institute of Standards and Technology, is hosting a webinar that will discuss the launch of the Rural Health Initiative (RHI) to improve access to high-quality healthcare in rural America. The RHI intends to work with various stakeholders to address a community's specific health issue challenges, such as diabetes, opioid abuse, heart failure, and lung-related diseases. At the time of the webinar, use [this link](#) to join. Meeting code is 740128910. Call in: 866-860-0870; passcode: 74729120.

Building Your Year End Advocacy Reports

December 13, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

Many government relations and advocacy departments have to put together a report of the year's activities. Whether it's for a goal review board or strategic planning for next year, you'll want to join this CQ webinar so you can paint your department in the best possible light with an advocacy report that crushes it.

Evidence-Based Policymaking Part 1: Identifying Effective Programs

December 13, 2:00-3:15 PM ET

Join the National Association of Counties and Pew Charitable Trusts for a three-part webinar series, Evidence-Based Policymaking, that will focus on strategies county leaders can use to create evidence-based practices and programs in their jurisdiction to better serve residents. This webinar will highlight strategies for program assessment, inventorying programs, and navigating research clearinghouses to find existing evidence-based programs. Webinar participants will also have the chance to learn about and discuss these strategies with county officials utilizing evidence-based policymaking in their work.

The Dockless Revolution: What We're Learning from Shared Micromobility Data

December 13, 4:00-4:30 PM ET

As new mobility services such as shared scooters, bikes, and cars expand across the country, cities need better data for transportation policy and planning. With dockless bikes and scooter policies, many cities have been successful in obtaining access to private mobility data. Join Eno for a webinar to learn about the growth of new mobility services in the U.S., and the ways that cities are now accessing new data about the safety, equity, and efficiency of transportation in our cities.

Building the Communities of Tomorrow

December 14, 1:00-2:00 PM ET

Recent Governing Institute interviews with key elected officials and CIOs surfaced an important issue facing government leaders throughout the country: tight finances and reliance on old technology make it difficult to tackle vexing problems like homelessness, the opioid epidemic, and affordable housing. Solving these challenges requires a fresh look at how governments partner with each other and the private sector. On December 14 at 1PM ET, our panel of local government leaders will discuss several ways the public and private sectors can collaborate to innovate and unlock data-driven insights that can solve complex issues and create better communities.

GM Plant Shutdowns - Fiscal and Economic Aftermath

December 18, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

General Motors' plan to shut down production at five North American facilities (in Michigan, Ohio, Maryland, and Ontario, Canada) is painful news to the communities directly affected by the decision. Furthermore, any major round of layoffs or plant closures such as these can result in economic and fiscal consequences for the impacted states. REMI's Senior Economist Peter Evangelakis will demonstrate how fiscal and economic analysis can help policy makers plan ahead in the aftermath of major shocks.

Nevada Broadband Workshop

January 11, 2019, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM PT

Location: Nevada Legislative Counsel Bureau, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, NV 89701
The purpose of this workshop is to engage the public and stakeholders with information to accelerate broadband connectivity, improve digital inclusion, and support local priorities. The workshop will provide information on topics including local broadband planning, funding, and engagement with service providers. Speakers and attendees from Nevada and federal agencies will come together to explore ways to facilitate the expansion of broadband capacity, access, and utilization.

CFPB Financial Literacy Training

Part 1: Bills; January 16, 2019, 3:00-4:30 PM ET

Part 2: Debit; January 23, 2019, 3:00-4:30 PM ET

Part 3: Credit; January 30, 2019, 3:00-4:30 PM ET

In coordination with the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Jobs Plus program, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) is offering a three-part financial literacy webinar series in January 2019. This webinar series is designed for case managers, job developers, community coaches, and other program and partner staff who engage one-on-one

with residents, especially through the Jobs Plus and Choice Neighborhoods programs. Details and registration instructions can be found in **this document**. In addition to registering, please follow the instructions to order the free training materials. It takes four weeks to receive the materials in the mail.

CONTACT US

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