

December 17, 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 be made now.** Our **draft agenda** is also available for view.

*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.

Is a Partial Federal Shutdown Imminent? The Short Answer: Yes

With just five legislative days left, Republicans and Democrats are working to find a solution that would prevent a partial government shutdown on Saturday, December 22, at 12:01 a.m. The odds, however, of finding a solution are rapidly diminishing as President Trump, Republicans, and Democrats harden their positions on funding for a southern border wall.

Democrats continue to insist that Congress appropriate \$1.6 billion for enhanced border security. Republicans and the president are demanding \$5 billion in funding for enhanced border security and ongoing construction of the southern border wall. This stalemate is compounded by the fact that President Trump has indicated that he is prepared to veto any spending bill that does not include his ask. This action would shut down numerous agencies, including the Departments of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, Justice, and Commerce, which fund programs important to regional councils.

Right now, there are three solutions being considered:

- Pass a full appropriations bill covering all remaining federal agencies without \$5 billion for the border wall. This would leave the ultimate decision as to whether to keep the government open or close it to the president.
- Pass a temporary continuing resolution for all federal agencies without fiscal year 2019 funding through mid-January, leaving the funding decisions to the new Congress that convenes on January 3.

- Pass a spending bill that covers all federal agencies that do not yet have their full fiscal year 2019 funding except for the Department of Homeland Security. The Department of Homeland Security would be funded through a one year-long continuing resolution that would fund the department through September 20, 2019.

The issue with the second solution is that it would leave the decision to a Democratic-controlled House of Representatives, whose leader has said would never appropriate \$5 billion for the southern border wall. The problem with the third solution is that it remains unclear as to whether the president would accept such a compromise since any continuing resolution would not include the \$5 billion for the border wall he is demanding.

If the government does shut down partially – and if it does the shutdown is likely to last at least until January 3 when the new Congress convenes – the immediate impact to regions is not likely to be significant. But any shutdown that drags into the month of January is likely to be disruptive. Cities, counties, and regions that administer federally-funded programs are likely to feel the pull of the partial government shutdown, leaving these local and regional entities in a financial bind to sustain these programs.

NARC will continue to monitor the situation, and if necessary, send out a special alert later this week with additional guidance on the impact of such a shutdown and how regions should respond.

Farm Bill Passed, Headed to President for Signature

Early last week, the House and Senate easily passed their compromise \$867 million Farm Bill (**HR 2**) in a largely bipartisan fashion, reauthorizing the legislative package for five years. The final package was stripped of a controversial House GOP proposal on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – a major point of contention between Republicans and Democrats. The final bill also leaves out two provisions that would have adversely impacted local governments: 1) a provision that would have prevented local governments from enforcing local food product regulations, and 2) language to prevent state and local governments from implementing pesticide permit programs that are more stringent than federal rules. The president is expected to sign sometime this week – an action that NARC has called for with our colleagues with the Campaign for Renewed Rural Development.

Some of the provisions that will benefit regions and their communities include:

- Sec. 6401 – expands the Strategic Economic and Community Development Program to allow the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary to prioritize funding for projects that support the implementation of a strategic multi-jurisdictional community investment plan.
- Sec. 2703 – streamlines the operation of the Regional Conservation Partnerships Program to increase program adoption by eligible partners and producers for conservation, restoration, and sustainability efforts on regional or watershed scales.
- Secs. 6102, 6201, and 6202 – supports increased funding for distance learning and telemedicine and access to broadband telecommunications services in rural areas; also allows localities to use USDA broadband loans and grants for middle-mile projects.
- Sec. 6101 – creates a 20 percent set aside of financial assistance and telemedicine projects aimed at addressing the opioid crisis.
- Sec. 6403 – doubles the size of allowable grant awards to \$200,000 for water, waste disposal, and wastewater facility grants (but cuts the annual authorization in half to \$15 million).

Congress Completes Work on Landmark Juvenile Justice Reform Legislation

Congress has passed the reauthorization of the *Juvenile Justice Reform Act* (HR 6964) – the first successful effort to do so since 2002. The bill coordinates federal efforts aimed at improving state juvenile justice systems with a focus on education and rehabilitation. The bill provides local leaders greater flexibility to meet the needs of delinquent youth in their communities and improve public safety, according to the official **fact sheet** of the legislation. Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC), chairwoman of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, said the bill would also “improve program accountability while promoting evidence-based solutions to give more young adults the tools and skills they need to achieve lifelong success.”

EPA and Army Propose New "Waters of the United States (WOTUS)" Definition

The Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of the Army have proposed a new definition of WOTUS that clarifies federal authority under the *Clean Water Act*. Under the new proposed rule, traditional navigable waters, tributaries to those waters, certain ditches, certain lakes and ponds, impoundments of jurisdictional waters, wetlands adjacent to jurisdictional waters would be federally regulated. Categories that will no longer be regulated include features that are only wet during rainfall events, groundwater, stormwater control features, and waste treatment systems. The agencies will take comment on the proposal for 60 days following its publication in the Federal Register. Access the pre-publication of the proposed rule, supporting analyses, and fact sheets [here](#).

USDA Launches New Program to Create High-Speed Internet e-Connectivity in Rural America

The USDA has announced **ReConnect**, a \$600 million loan and grant program to connect rural areas that currently have insufficient broadband service. This pilot program was formed from the funds appropriated by Congress in fiscal year 2018. USDA will make available \$200 million for grants (due April 29), \$200 million for loan and grant combinations (due May 29), and \$200 million for low-interest loans (due June 28). Approved projects must serve communities with fewer than 20,000 people with no broadband service or where service is slower than 10 megabits per second (mbps) download and 1 mbps upload). The USDA will finalize the application window by notice in the Federal Register and Grants.gov by February 22, 2019.

OTHER NEWS

Federal Watchdog Offers Gloomy Outlook for State and Local Budgets

Based on **recent projections** by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), state and local government spending is likely to outpace revenues over the next half century. Health care costs, particularly Medicaid, along with benefits for public retirees and employees will be major contributors to increased public spending. Revenues from personal income taxes and federal grants to state and local governments are expected to rise in the coming years, but at a slower pace than expenditures. The GAO study says, "Absent any policy changes, revenues are likely to be insufficient to maintain the sector's capacity to provide services at levels consistent with current policies during the next 50 years."

Opportunity Zones National Ranking Report Released

LOCUS and Smart Growth America has released the **LOCUS National Opportunity Zone (OZ) Ranking Report**. The first of its kind, the report ranks each of the designated OZs based on its "Smart Growth Potential" and its Social Equity + Vulnerability Index Score. This study was created to help investors identify which OZs should be prioritized for investment because of its ability to deliver positive economic, environmental, and social returns. The study is also intended to provide local leaders with a policy framework to manage and ensure equitable, inclusive development in OZs.

REGIONAL SPOTLIGHT

Bay Area Leaders Propose Aggressive Housing Fix, New Agency to Get it Done

The Committee to House the Bay Area, formed by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) has proposed an aggressive plan to address the region's housing crisis. They are proposing to combine a regional rent cap, new property taxes, laws against arbitrary evictions, and loose zoning near transit centers. They are also recommending a new agency with taxing authority to implement these region-wide housing solutions. Oakland Mayor Libby has stressed the importance of responding to the crisis as a region, saying, "Oakland's problems are not 'Oakland's problems' — we're all interdependent. Our status as residents of the Bay Area supersedes our status as residents of any particular municipality." The plan will go up for a vote before the MTC this week and ABAG in January.

FEATURED JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Accounts Payable Specialist

Posted: 12/14/2018

San Diego Association of Governments, San Diego, CA

Policy Planner

Posted: 12/14/2018

Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, Detroit, MI

Transportation Programs Manager

Posted: 12/14/2018

Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments, Albany, OR

Alternative Fuels Planner II

Posted: 12/13/2018

Indian Nations Council of Governments, Tulsa, OK

Deputy Director/Chief Planner

Posted: 12/13/2018

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, Lansing, MI

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 8, 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!

A National Conversation on Early Learning Facilities

December 18, 1:00-2:00 PM ET

Join the Bipartisan Policy Center for a webinar discussing the recently released Early Learning Facilities Policy Framework, a collaborative effort of over 20 partnering organizations. This framework recognizes that the quality of the physical buildings and spaces where young children learn, play, and grow contribute to their cognitive development, and social, emotional, and physical well-being.

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.

TAB EZ and EPA Brownfields MAC Grant Guidelines Overview

December 18, 2:30-3:45 PM ET

Join national brownfields experts at the Center for Creative Land Recycling, the KSU Technical Assistance to Brownfields Communities Program, and the New Jersey Institute of Technology to learn about the new Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Multipurpose, Assessment, and Cleanup (MAC) brownfields grant competition and key tricks of the trade as you prepare your FY 2019 grant applications. This webinar will also include a "how to" for TAB EZ, a free online tool intended to streamline and simplify the grant writing process when applying for EPA brownfields assessment and cleanup grants.

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.

Let's Get Moving: The Power of Physical Activity

January 11, 2019, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

In November 2018, new **HHS Physical Activity Guidelines** were released. The guidelines confirmed what had been known for some time: when people move more, they are healthy, active, and engaged. This webinar will explore the guidelines and how communities are promoting physical activity. This webinar is intended for those just starting out on the walking path as well as those interested in learning more about the topic.

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.

Recruitment Trends in 2019

February 12, 2019, 1:00-2:30 PM ET

This International City/County Management Association (ICMA) is hosting a webinar that is designed to give your city or county a competitive edge when trying to hire employees at a time of record unemployment.. During this session, ICMA will share information to help you better understand what candidates think about your hiring process, the top trends shaping hiring, and how data and analytics can help you hire top talent.

CONTACT US

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