

December 3, 2018 [View this email in your browser](#)



Save the Date! NARC's 2019 National Conference of Regions is Sunday, February 10 - Wednesday, February 13, 2019 at the Washington Court Hotel. **Reservations* can be made now!**

*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 Senate is in session. The House will return tomorrow, December 4.

The 115th Congress: Heading into the Home Stretch

With less than two weeks left until the end of the 115th Congress, and less than a week before the current continuing resolution expires, here is the state of things, as we know it:

1. Due to the death of former President George H. W. Bush, Congress is likely to approve a continuing resolution that will enable them to participate in the various funeral-related events, while setting aside all remaining funding decisions until next week.
2. The president is demanding that \$5 billion be included in any fiscal year 2019 funding agreement to fund the southern border wall. Democrats have said they are willing to approve \$1.5 billion for the border wall; however, the president has indicated that he is willing to shut the government down if he does not get the amount of federal funding he wants.
3. Republican leaders are considering adoption of a mini-omnibus bill covering six federal agencies. That would leave only the Department of Homeland Security without fiscal year 2019 funding, which is where any border wall funding is likely to be provided. Such a move would substantially reduce the likelihood of a partial government and, should a shutdown occur, reduce its impact.
4. The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) will expire at 12:01am on December 8. Republican efforts to reduce or eliminate coverage for properties that have flooded multiple times have been met with resistance from Democrats and Republicans in flood-prone states. However, given the looming deadline, Republicans and Democrats will have to come to some type of agreement or pass another short-term extension that is likely to push any action into next year.
5. Congressional Republicans have decided to end efforts to defund Planned Parenthood and the *Affordable Care Act*, thereby removing two significant obstacles to reaching any future

funding agreements.

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 just released **this survey** to gather feedback on these topics. The survey should take approximately 6 minutes to complete. Your feedback will help shape the final report and recommendations to Congress. Please take a few minutes to provide your insight and represent your region. If you have any questions, please email Maci Morin at maci.morin@narc.org. Thanks for your time and feedback!

Ag Committee Leaders Reach Deal on Farm Bill

The top House and Senate Farm Bill negotiators have reached an agreement in principle, breaking months of deadlock. The leaders have decided to treat the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in similar fashion to the Senate's version of the Farm Bill, avoiding the expansion of work requirements that were in the House version. Instead, Senate Agriculture Chairman Pat Roberts (R-KS) said the bill will strengthen existing work requirements and will not shift food stamp funding into job training. *Morning Agriculture* **reported** that the top Farm Bill negotiators have been pushing to release a conference report early this week, but the consideration of the Farm Bill on the floor may temporarily be put on hold because of congressional activities honoring former President George H. W. Bush.

Legislators Reach Impasse on National Flood Insurance Program Reform

Congress passed a one-week extension for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) late last week, which was set to expire at midnight on November 30. Although federal lawmakers agree that the program needs serious reform, they are deadlocked on how to do so. A major sticking point is a Republican-led effort to cut the subsidies that suppress the financial risk of living in flood-prone areas. Experts say that this effort is consistent with the message in this year's **National Climate Assessment**, which suggested coastal communities could partly adapt to sea level rise by restricting development in at-risk flood areas or leaving them altogether. Senator John Kennedy (R-LA) **successfully led an effort to pass a six-month extension** of the program in the Senate last week, and is now focusing on efforts for House passage of his bill.

HUD Secretary on Local Housing Regulations: 'When in Doubt, Cut It Out'

At the American Legislative Exchange Council's 2018 States & Nation Policy Summit in D.C., Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Ben Carson criticized the California Energy Commission's recent rule to require solar panels on all new single-family homes and apartments and condominiums that are three stories or less. He said these state regulations and local zoning, like Los Angeles' rules limiting 80 percent of its land to single-family constructions, are exacerbating the national affordability crisis. Secretary Carson suggested that public-private partnerships can help address the crisis, getting the \$30 billion backlog in public housing capitol "under control." The Secretary also said that HUD is focused on helping low-income residents live in the same community where they work, but that it must start with localities curtailing their housing regulations.

OTHER NEWS

Cities Retrofit United Nations' Goals to Remake the World

There is a growing number of localities that are attempting to implement the **United Nations' seventeen sustainable development goals** by 2030 to help create a more sustainable future for all. Some cities, such as New York and Los Angeles, have realized that the goals are aligned with their own community visions, so they are localizing them to address big issues like public health, education, equity, economic growth, and the environment. New York has even submitted a voluntary local review of their progress towards sustainable development – the first city internationally to do so. Amy Liu, Vice President and Director of the Metropolitan Policy Program at Brookings, said, "the work of U.S. mayors and regional leaders has taken global center stage."

REGIONAL SPOTLIGHT

SACOG Testifies on the Hill

Last Wednesday, James Corless, Executive Director of the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), testified in the Senate Committee on Environmental and Public Works hearing “Addressing America’s Surface Transportation Infrastructure Needs.” The hearing focused largely on the poor condition of the nation’s infrastructure and funding mechanisms with which to repair it. Senators and panelists discussed extensively the possible switch from gas taxes to miles-traveled fees. James Corless pointed out the need for variable pricing, given the different burdens rural and urban travelers place on roads. Calling for increased innovation-enabling funding formulas, he also highlighted partnerships with the tech industry to foster modern transportation programs. Finally, he called for reform of the planning process, streamlining requirements without eliminating necessary outcomes, as well as highlighting the need to invest in regional planning capacity, which bridges the urban-rural divide. See his written testimony [here](#).

Remembering Martha Dorsey: 'In It for the Right Reasons'

Last week, family, friends, and colleagues came together to celebrate the life of Martha Dorsey – a true trailblazer and regional leader in Clermont County, Ohio. She was the former president of the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana (OKI) Regional Council of Governments and the state of Ohio County Commissioners. She was the first woman to serve as a county commissioner, serving from 1987 to 2002. Longtime friend Clermont County Auditor Linda Fraley said, “she was one of those elected officials who was in it for all the right reasons... she worked her way up. She had a heart for people. She didn't make any decisions as a county commissioner without thinking about the people.”

FEATURED JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Grants Assistant

West Florida Regional Planning Council, Destin, FL

Assistant Planner

Puget Sound Regional Council, Seattle, WA

Transportation Planner

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, Pittsburgh, PA

Government Contract Procurement Program Manager

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, Pittsburgh, PA

Planner

Houston-Galveston Area Council, Houston, TX

FUNDING

[View full list of grants!](#)

Save America's Treasures Grants

Applications Due: December 3

The National Park Service has announced the availability of \$13 million in Historic Preservation Fund grants for the Save America’s Treasures (SAT) program. SAT grants provide preservation and/or conservation assistance to nationally-significant historic properties and collections. Grants will be awarded through a competitive process and require a dollar-for-dollar, non-Federal match, which can be cash or documented in-kind.

FY 2019 Farm to School Grant

Applications Due: December 4

The USDA Farm to School program was established to provide grants and technical assistance to implement farm to school programs that improve access to local foods in eligible schools. Approximately \$7.5 million will be released under this solicitation in FY 2019. Planning and training grant awards range from \$20,000 to \$50,000, and implementation grant awards range from \$50,000 to \$100,000. Organizations that have received implementation, support service, or

training grants through the Farm to School Grant Program in the last two funding cycles (FY 2017 or FY 2018) are ineligible to apply for FY 2019 funding. A 25 percent cash or in-kind funding match is required.

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.

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.

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!](#)

Stormwater 101: How to Address Community Flooding and Water Quality Issues

December 6, 12:00-1:00 PM ET

This webinar, hosted by the University of Illinois Extension's Community and Economic Development team, will address best management practices for addressing urban stormwater quality and quantity challenges. They will discuss both the practices and the fiscal implications of stormwater solutions.

Advancing One Water Through Arts and Culture

December 6, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

In partnership with ArtPlace America, the US Water Alliance released a report, **Advancing One Water Through Arts and Culture: A Blueprint for Action**, to accelerate innovative and promising efforts for integrating arts and culture into the water sector. The report demonstrates how arts and cultural strategies are helping achieve sustainable and inclusive water goals by inspiring action from water leaders to consider, implement, and scale arts and cultural initiatives. Learn from both arts and water leaders about how integrating water, arts, and culture has helped imagine new solutions to water challenges.

Addressing Inequities in Health: Key Concepts for Counties

December 6, 2:00-3:15 PM ET

Join the National Association of Counties to learn how counties can use health equity as a framework to develop programs and policies to improve the health of their residents. Experts from County Health Rankings & Roadmaps and the Government Alliance on Race and Equity will share strategies and tools for counties doing work to create positive shifts in health for their residents. You will also hear from Boone County, MO on the work they are doing to create more equitable health opportunities in their community.

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.

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.

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.

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