

November 19, 2018 [View this email in your browser](#)



Save the Date! NARC's 2019 National Conference of Regions is February 10-13

NARC would like to extend an invitation to you and your staff to join us in Washington for our February policy conference. The National Conference of Regions is NARC's forum to determine key policy issues and a legislative agenda for the year ahead, targeting topics central to our members' missions and their local elected officials' focus. The conference will take place at the **Washington Court Hotel**, located at **525 New Jersey Ave NW, Washington, D.C.** A registration link will be made available soon. We hope to see you there!

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

The House and Senate are on recess for the Thanksgiving holiday. The Senate will return on Monday, November 26. The House will return on Tuesday, November 27.

The 116th Congress – Who's in Charge?

The following summary is based on NARC's November 14, 2018 call with members on the likely impact of the mid-term elections on regions. Watch the recording [here](#).

When Congress returned from its mid-term election recess last week, Republican and Democratic senators and House members began the lengthy process of selecting their leadership for the 116th Congress, which convenes on January 3, 2019.

With virtually no opposition, Senators Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and Chuck Schumer (D-NY) were re-elected to their positions as Senate majority and minority leaders.

Representative Kevin McCarthy (R-CA), who currently serves as the House majority leader, was again elected as leader of the House Republicans, but this time he will serve as House minority leader because Republicans lost their majority in the most recent election.

Other Republicans elected to leadership positions include Steve Scalise (R-LA), who was re-elected as Republican Whip, and Liz Cheney (R-WY), who was elected as Republican conference chair. Scalise's re-election was virtually certain given his popularity among his colleagues, especially after he rose to national prominence last year after he was shot and seriously injured at a House Republican baseball practice in Virginia, and because of his hard work to raise money for Republican House candidates after House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) announced his retirement earlier this year.

Democrats will choose their leaders next week, including their nominee for Speaker of the House, when Congress returns from its Thanksgiving break. As of today, the only person who has announced for Speaker is Nancy Pelosi (D-CA). That may change, but most agree that any move to deny her the speakership will not succeed. No one has been more effective raising money and getting Democrats elected than Pelosi, and the loyalty that brings is likely to give her the speakership. But until the vote next week for the Democratic nominee to be Speaker, and the final vote on the first day of the new session on January 3 when the Speaker is chosen by the full House,

there remains some uncertainty. This is in part because there are about two-dozen 'never Pelosi' Democrats who have committed to voting against Pelosi for Speaker, and because it is unclear if someone will actually run against her. So far, no one has announced that they are running against Pelosi, though Rep. Marcia Fudge (D-OH) has said that she may run.

House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer (D-MD) is likely to be elected House majority leader. Hoyer has locked up the votes to become majority leader in the next Congress. He has the support of at least two-thirds of the incoming Democratic Caucus, according to *Politico*. Assistant Democratic Leader James Clyburn (D-SC) is facing a challenge from Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO) for majority whip, although Clyburn is favored to win.

For more on the 116th Congress and what it is likely to bring, please check out our **recording of last week's members' call** on the midterm elections and what they mean for regions.

Farm Bill Deal is 'Darn Close' Amid Possible SNAP Compromise, Negotiators Say

A deal on the Farm Bill could be reached as soon as today. Committee staff worked through the weekend to bring negotiators closer to reaching a compromise. The House and Senate have been working on blending their ideas for the nutrition title, which has arguably been the most controversial because of the House's proposed tightening of work requirements for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The leaders of the congressional agriculture committees are also continuing to work to settle policy agreements in the conservation title, particularly on the Conservation Reserve Program. House Agriculture Chairman Mike Conaway (R-TX) told *Politico*, "we're going to get this done soon... we've got some regulatory issues toward the end that we've got to get hashed out... but we're darn close."

Lawmakers Say CA Will Eventually Get Emergency Funding for Fire Relief

Congress is looking to provide emergency wildfire disaster relief funding to California. However, many details on what shape the legislation will take or on the dollar amount could not be provided. The House and Senate are facing a December 7 deadline for passing the rest of the fiscal year 2019 bills (or pass a continuing resolution) to avoid a partial government shutdown. California has not yet provided a letter stating their needs, either, because crews are still fighting fires and surveying the damage. House Appropriations Chairman Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ) said that any upcoming federal appropriations package could get wildfire funding attached to it, which could make it easier to get passed.

EPA Acting Administrator Wheeler Launches Cleaner Trucks Initiative

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) launched the Cleaner Trucks Initiative in an effort to decrease nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions from heavy-duty truck engines. Senior staff and White House officials, as well as representatives from the labor and trucking industries, joined acting EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler to roll out the initiative. Though the EPA reduced NOx emission by 40% in the last ten years, reports indicated freight would account for a third of NOx emissions by 2025. Nitrous oxide negatively impacts ozone and particulate matter standards in surrounding areas. The EPA will release the proposed rule in early 2020.

Submit Comments for New OZ Regulations!

The U.S. Department of Treasury and Internal Revenue Service recently proposed regulations and guidelines for the new Opportunity Zones (OZ) program. The program was created by the **2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act** to spur economic investment and growth in designated distressed communities. The regulations are meant to help investors and local governments determine the types of development eligible under the program and the tax benefits investors will receive. To read the proposed regulations and submit comments, please visit the **docket**. Written comments must be received by December 28. Please send a copy of your comments to maci.morin@narc.org as well, so we can track regional concerns.

OTHER NEWS

FEMA Releases 2018 National Preparedness Report

Last week, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and its partners released the **2018 National Preparedness Report**. The report evaluates progress and challenges that individuals and communities, private and nonprofit sectors, faith-based organizations, and all levels of government have faced in preparedness. This year's report also includes an in-depth

analysis of five core capabilities that reports in the past have identified as persistent challenges: operational coordination, infrastructure systems, housing, economic recovery, and cybersecurity.

REGIONAL SPOTLIGHT

MWCOG Celebrates 10 Years of Climate Success Action

Last Wednesday, November 14th, NARC staff attended Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' (MWCOG) most recent Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee meeting at MWCOG offices. The Committee met to celebrate ten years of climate action since MWCOG adopted their regional program on climate change in 2008. Additionally, Dr. James Kinter, Director of the Center for Ocean-Land-Atmosphere at George Mason University, gave a presentation on climate change and risks posed to the Metropolitan Washington region. Lastly, the Committee spent time discussing the next ten years of climate action, including identifying what goals and actions may be needed to address climate change in the region. To view documents from the meeting, please visit [MWCOG's website](#).

Event Celebrates BVCOG Members' Self-Sufficiency Goals Achieved

The Brazos Valley Council of Governments (BVCOG) recently honored twenty members of their Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program for completing the program. BVCOG's FSS program is designed to help individuals design a plan to complete within five years' time, whether that be getting their GED, taking college courses, or becoming financially autonomous. FSS teaches resume writing, provides financial coaching, and connects people to Brazos Valley Workforce Solutions for potential job training. BVCOG also presents each of the FSS graduating members with a check from a savings account that the program establishes connected to the person's housing voucher. Congrats to all the recent graduates!

NIRPC Receives More Recognition for Greenways+Blueways 2020 Plan

The Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) has received more recognition for its innovative **Greenways+Blueways 2020 Plan**. Last week, the Indiana Association of Regional Councils awarded NIRPC their Promoting Regionalism Award for the plan. During the Indiana Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Council Conference, the plan received the Outstanding Planning Project award. **NARC also awarded NIRPC a Medium Metro Achievement award** for the plan at our 2018 Annual Conference. Congratulations to NIRPC!

FEATURED JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Communications Specialist

Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments, Cincinnati, OH

Senior Planner – Transportation

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Chicago, IL

Human Resources Manager

Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments, Albany, OR

Transportation Engineer/Planner

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, Philadelphia, PA

RFP: Performance Audit Services

Association of Central Oklahoma Governments, Oklahoma City, OK

FUNDING

[View full list of grants!](#)

Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Grants

Applications Due: November 29, but applications are accepted on a quarterly basis. The Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation works to impact the lifesaving capabilities and the lives of local heroes and their communities. This is accomplished by providing lifesaving equipment and prevention education tools to first responders and public safety organizations. The

Foundation's areas of interest include lifesaving equipment, prevention education, scholarships and continued education, disaster relief, and support for members of the military. The Foundation mainly focuses its resources in areas served by Firehouse Subs restaurants, but recognizes the need of rural and volunteer departments throughout the country and will consider applications outside of the 60 mile guideline.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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!](#)

Partnering with Community

November 20, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

For decades, Allen County, Kansas saw the population and economic fabric of their county decline. But despite the shift, the 13,000 residents of this rural county in the southeastern region of the state have been experiencing a watershed moment. Community members and leaders have banded together to foster a sense of belonging and create a shared vision—everything from improving the collective health of the community to enhancing the livelihoods and prospects of everyone. Join County Health Rankings & Roadmaps as they talk with Lisse Regehr, Deputy Director of Outreach and Advocacy for Thrive Allen County, about how the nonprofit coalition has created opportunities for residents to embrace their power and act collectively.

Changing Cultures in Congress

November 28, 10:00-11:30 AM ET

The next Congress will be seated in early January, and it will look very different from the one that preceded it. In the House of Representatives, the Democrats will take control for the first time since 2010. They will set new rules about how to govern the institution after nearly a decade in the minority. What should we expect them to do? Join the Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) for a discussion of BPC fellow Don Wolfensberger's new book, *Changing Cultures in Congress: From Fair Play to Power Plays*. BPC will also release the third-quarter update of the Healthy Congress Index, which measures congressional procedure against recommendations made by the Commission on Political Reform.

Overcoming Top Workforce Challenges in State and Local Government

November 29, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

In a recent *Route Fifty* survey, the number one management challenge for state and local leaders was human capital and workforce issues. From hiring talent in an increasingly competitive job market, to offering effective training with limited resources, government managers struggle to build the workforce they need to achieve government's critical mission. This *Route Fifty* digital event will take a deep-dive into the workforce pain points government leaders face and share best practices from practitioners who are effectively overcoming these challenges.

The Growth and Evolution of CDFI Partnerships

November 29, 3:00-4:00 PM ET

Join this free Connecting Communities® webinar to learn about new research from community development financial institutions (CDFI) practitioners and convening partners that actively participate in select profiled CDFI partnerships. Individuals and organizations interested in forming or participating in CDFI partnerships will hear about critical considerations, leading practices, and innovative developments from those with firsthand experience.

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.

CONTACT US

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