

November 26, 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, November 27.*

### **Congress is Back and the Pressure to Finish Its Work Grows**

Here we go again!

When lawmakers return to Washington this week, they will face growing tensions and concerns as they face the reality that a partial government shutdown is increasingly possible unless they are able to agree on a number of significant issues.

Most importantly, Congress must adopt a funding bill that will fund several departments including the Departments of Transportation, Commerce, Justice, and Agriculture. Failure to come to an agreement on funding will either result in a partial government shutdown or necessitate a short-term continuing resolution. Neither is the preferred solution, but finding a way to prevent this scenario appears to be increasingly difficult.

First, Republicans do not want to pass another continuing resolution, especially one that pushes the final funding decisions to a new Congress in which Democrats will control the House. This would ensure that many Republican funding priorities would fall by the wayside.

Second, Democrats are digging in their heels, demanding that Congress include in any funding bill a measure that protects Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian electoral interference. Opposition from Republican leaders to such a provision could make reaching an agreement very difficult.

Third, the president has threatened to shut the government down unless funding for the southern border wall and enhanced border security are included in any appropriations package. And the events at the border over the Thanksgiving Day weekend likely will strengthen his hand and the

resolve of border wall supporters in Congress.

And fourth, while the House could easily pass an appropriations bill that funds the border wall, and does not protect the special counsel's investigation, the Senate needs at least nine Democrats to pass any appropriations bill. Additionally, a bill that includes funding for the border wall, and does not protect the special counsel, is unlikely to muster the necessary Democratic support.

Of course, experience tells us that, despite these disagreements, Congress and the president will find a way to pass an appropriations bill that ultimately funds the government. However, at the moment it is anyone's guess as to whether they can do so by December 8, when the current continuing resolution expires, and what that agreement will look like.

### **NARC Signs onto Multiple Letters to the Federal Government**

Over the last couple of weeks, NARC has written or signed onto several letters to Congress and federal agencies that support local and regional priorities. The letters include the following:

- NARC **submitted comments** to the Department of Transportation *regarding the scope of the study on the impact of automated vehicle technologies on workforce.*
- NARC **joined the members** of the Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding to *encourage the Department of Housing and Urban Development to request robust funding levels for housing and community development programs in their fiscal year 2020 budget.*
- NARC **joined** the National League of Cities, National Association of Counties, National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors, U.S. Conference of Mayors, and the National Association of Towns and Townships to *ask the Federal Communications Commission to reconsider proposals to reduce cable franchise fees and preempt local authority over cable operator's non-cable services.*

### **White House Releases Fourth National Climate Assessment**

Mandated by Congress and authored by 13 federal agencies and scores of non-governmental scientists, the Fourth National Climate Assessment report released on Friday presents the starkest warnings yet about the economic consequences of climate change to the United States.

The report concludes that if no action is taken to address global warming, the gross domestic product (GDP) of the United States could shrink by as much as 10 percent by the century's end. It lays out over nearly 1,200 pages of the effects of a changing climate on the economy, health, and the environment. The report points to the devastating fires in California, the crop failures in the Mid-West, and the crumbling infrastructure in the South as indicators of what is yet to come and how significant the consequences will be. The report asserts that no area of the country will be untouched, from the Southwest, where droughts will curb hydropower and tax already limited water supplies, to Alaska, where the loss of sea ice will cause coastal flooding and erosion and force communities to relocate, to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, where saltwater will taint drinking water.

According to the authors, the goal of the report is to help us better understand the implications of climate change on the United States and world, and to provide decision makers with the information they need to increase "resilience-building activities across the country." Authored with the help of 1,000 people, including 300 leading scientists, roughly half from outside the government, the report's authors write: "Earth's climate is now changing faster than at any point in the history of modern civilization, primarily as a result of human activities." **[Click here to access the full report.](#)**

### **FEMA Launches Website to Track Supplemental Disaster Funding**

The Recovery Support Function Leadership Group, which is comprised of 20 federal agencies, in coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) developed a **website** that tracks federal interagency supplemental disaster funding for the 2017 hurricanes and California wildfires. The website includes the following resources:

- The **Spending Explorer** tab illustrates the money agencies receive for specific projects and state profiles that present visualizations of spending within states and territories affected by the 2017 hurricanes and California wildfires.
- Through the **Funding in Action** tab, visitors are able to see stories of how the federal family uses funds to help affected communities recover from disaster.
- The **State Profiles** tab is an interactive way to explore federal disaster declarations by state, county, hazard, and year to better understand historical flood risks and financial impact.

### **USDA and ONDCP Release Tool to Help Rural Communities Address the Opioid Epidemic**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) teamed up to create the **Rural Resource Guide to Help Communities Address Substance Abuse Disorder and Opioid Misuse**. The guide serves as a one-stop shop for rural leaders looking for federal funding and partnership opportunities to tackle the substance abuse epidemic. It is the second tool in the USDA's Community Opioid Misuse Toolbox, with the first being a **Community Assessment Tool** that helps community leaders assess how and why substance abuse disorders and opioid misuse is impacting their regions.

## **OTHER NEWS**

### **NLC Releases Action Guide for the 2020 Census**

The National League of Cities has created a **municipal action guide** to help cities prepare for the upcoming 2020 Census. The guide helps local leaders understand the importance of the decennial census and what they can expect over the next few years. It provides information on where people are counted, which populations are particularly hard to count, and how people can respond to the upcoming census. The document also informs local leaders on how they can get more involved, including collaborating with Census Bureau and organizing volunteer Complete Count Committees.

## **REGIONAL SPOTLIGHT**

### **Over 20 Local Governments Join Together to Form the Historic Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Coalition**

Last month, the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) hosted a signing ceremony officially forming the Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Coalition. Through this new coalition, over twenty local governments will be working together to develop the region's first Regional Resiliency Plan and address sea level rise regionally. TBRPC Executive Director Sean Sullivan said, "the benefits of this successful regional approach are that this effort creates a stronger voice, accelerates progressive planning, and leverages resources. And, by broadening partnerships and cultivating cooperation among our regional governments, access to resources and information will be enhanced."

### **GoBus Receives Award from the Texas Natural Gas Vehicle Alliance**

The East Texas Council of Governments' (ETCOG) GoBus transportation system was awarded a Lone Star Natural Gas Vehicle Award for outstanding contributions towards advancing natural gas as a transportation fuel. The GoBus system, operated by ETCOG, is a rural transportation system providing 7,000 trips a month to a 14-county region. The system started using natural gas in 2016 and has three natural gas buses that have travelled over 100,000 miles collectively to date. ETCOG Executive Director David Cleveland said, "choosing natural gas is good for our economy and good for our environment. We are honored to receive this award." Congratulations, ETCOG!

## **FEATURED JOBS**

***View full list of jobs!***

### **Planner**

Houston-Galveston Area Council, Houston, TX

### **Transportation Planner**

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, Philadelphia, PA

**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

**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.

**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](mailto: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.

### **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.

### **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!](#)

### **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.

### **Changes in Demographics and Markets for Public Transportation**

November 28, 2:00-3:30 PM ET

Learn more about how changes in demographics, traveler preferences, and markets for public transportation affect transit ridership now and in the future at a webinar hosted by the Transportation Research Board (TRB). The session will feature research from the **Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP)'s Understanding Changes in Demographics, Preferences, and Markets for Public Transportation**. Presenters will discuss the role of both "hard" (travel times and costs) and "soft" (values, preferences, and attitudes) attributes to interpret predicted changes in the markets for public transportation. They also will identify how an individual's demographics affect long-term attitudes and values and how the communities they choose to live in affects their likelihood to ride transit.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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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