



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

eREGIONS

**NATIONAL
CONFERENCE OF REGIONS**

FEBRUARY 11-14, 2018
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Registration is Open!

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

Congress is in session.

Shutdown Looms as Congress Seeks Budget Agreement

The deadline for the current stopgap funding bill, January 19, is quickly approaching with Republicans and Democrats still far apart on a deal. The laundry list of items that Congress would like to attach to the funding bills is making the process more complicated, including disaster aid, a DACA fix, raising the federal budget caps, and the Children's Health Insurance Program. Democrats are under significant pressure to reject any appropriations bill that does not resolve DACA. The White House has said that there can be no agreement unless there is money for the border wall, something Democrats say is a nonstarter. Some Republicans are calling for large increases in the defense budget at the expense of non-defense discretionary programs by raising the budget caps only for defense funds. And Democrats are being urged to reject any short-term funding bill that would fund the government through February or March. If Congress cannot overcome the current impasse, the likelihood of a government shutdown on January 20 looms large.

Trump, Republican Lawmakers Discuss 2018 Agenda at Camp David

Over the weekend, Trump and Republican leaders met at Camp David to discuss their top priorities for the new year, including national security, infrastructure, budget, economic growth, and the opioid crisis. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell hopes that 2018 will "be a year of more bipartisan cooperation," predicting that a "significant number of Democrats" will be interested in supporting Trump's agenda. DACA was discussed during the retreat at length, with Trump declaring that he would not sign any DACA deal unless Congress agrees to fund his border wall and overhaul the entire legal immigration system. Welfare reform has been something Trump has been pushing for weeks as a priority in 2018. But after this weekend's meeting at Camp David, Trump is reportedly backing off this idea. White House advisers and Mitch McConnell told him that without Democratic support, Republicans would not get very far on welfare reform. Some

Republicans are likely to be disappointed by Trump's withdrawal, but with issues like infrastructure, immigration, and the budget looming, it just seems like a non-starter in 2018.

House Lawmakers Look at Reorganizing DOE

The House Energy and Commerce Committee's Energy Subcommittee will host a hearing tomorrow at 10:00am ET titled *DOE Remodernization: Advancing DOE's Mission for National, Economic, and Energy Security of the United States*. House lawmakers will explore what actions are necessary for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to carry out its core national, economic, and energy security missions. A panel of top agency officials, as well as a distinguished second panel of scientists and policy professionals, will provide testimony. Access the list of witnesses, witness testimony, and a live webcast of the hearing [HERE](#).

Deadline Delayed for Submitting an Assessment of Fair Housing

Last week, The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) published **a notice in the Federal Register** that will delay the deadline for local governments to submit an Assessment of Fair Housing to October 31, 2020. The Assessment of Fair Housing requires communities to analyze their housing segregation and submit plans to reverse it. HUD has argued that it is delaying the deadline to respond to cities struggling to meet the rule's requirements and to invest in tools to help communities assess their housing patterns. Critics of the notice say the Trump administration is strangling the assessment in more analysis and preparation. They also fear that the administration will entirely undo the rule in the future.

FEMA Expands its Reinsurance Program by Transferring \$1.46 Billion of Flood Risk to the Private Market

For Hurricane Harvey alone, more than 91,000 people filed flood insurance claims through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) to cover damages. FEMA paid over \$7.6 billion in losses to those policyholders. In 2017 FEMA purchased reinsurance from the private markets, meaning the agency was able to recover \$1.042 billion of the Hurricane Harvey payments. To build on this commitment to strengthen FEMA's ability to cover future flood losses through the NFIP, FEMA transferred \$1.46 billion of the NFIP's financial risk to the private market to cover qualifying floods that occur in 2018.

OTHER NEWS

Billions from VW Settlement Boost Push to Clean Vehicles

As part of the Volkswagen (VW) settlement of 2016, the company has agreed to pay \$2.8 billion to states nationwide to reduce diesel pollution. Settlement funds could arrive as early as June, offering \$8 to \$423 million per state (based on the number of diesel VWs sold). Planning is already well underway for states to decide how this influx of funds can help them reach their air quality standards using low- to no-emission vehicles. States can spend as much as 15 percent of these funds to build charging stations for electric vehicles, and many states are targeting school buses. Still, many states are struggling with the question of how hard they should push their fleet managers to replace old diesel engines with zero-emission vehicles rather than "clean" diesel vehicles.

National Park Service Announces \$500,000 in Grants to Support Diversity in the National Register of Historic Places

The National Park Service (NPS) announced \$500,000 in grants to help fund 13 projects across the country. States, tribes, and local governments are working with NPS to recognize and preserve places in underrepresented communities on the **National Register of Historic Places**. Projects supported by the grant include surveys and inventories of historic properties and the development of nominations to the National Register for specific sites. These grants will lead to future nominations from local and state governments in Native American, African American, women's Asian American, and Latino history and culture.

How Can Summer Jobs Reduce Crime Among Youth?

Summer youth employment programs (SYEPs) are growing in popularity among U.S. cities and counties, and have been effective in reducing crime and incarceration rates among participants. The Metropolitan Policy Program at Brookings wanted to know how this was achieved and which participants most-benefited from these programs. They conducted a study that examined the

Boston SYEP to discover whether short-term behavioral and attitudinal changes related to participation in the program are linked to crime reduction. The researchers **reported** that:

- Participants had fewer arraignments for violent and property crimes;
- Participants showed improvements in their skills, attitudes, and aspirations; and
- Improvements in social and emotional skills were linked to the decline in arraignments.

MEMBER REQUESTS

DOE Request: Information on Energy Emergencies Planning

Based on our recent conversations with the U.S. Department of Energy, we have learned that they are very interested in local energy assurance and the importance of a regional approach to prepare for energy emergencies. Has your regional council done any planning in preparation for regional power outages, fuel shortages, or national gas service disruptions? Have you made plans to help keep critical infrastructure facilities in operation, or help emergency responders, medical care facilities, and critical care facilities have the energy supplies they need to function? If you have undertaken planning measures for any of these scenarios, please reach out to Cameron Herbolsheimer (cameron@narc.org) or Maci Morin (maci.hurley@narc.org) and tell us your story.

Transportation System Resiliency

NARC has been asked to participate in a roundtable discussion focused on “Resiliency, Reliability, and Energy Infrastructure Planning.” Help NARC share your stories. How are you upgrading and preparing infrastructure (i.e. repairing/building more resilient roads, preparing for transportation fuel shortages, investing in alternative fuels, etc.)? What policies and programs are you implementing to support robust infrastructure investment, planning, and response (i.e. upgrading emergency plans, etc.). Please send all relevant stories to Leslie Wollack (leslie@narc.org) by February 2.

FEATURED JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Associate Policy Analyst

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Chicago, IL

Senior Planner

Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission, Dayton, OH

REGIONS LEAD

Visit www.regionslead.org to read up on the latest NARC blogs. We invite members to submit blogs to the site too. Please send contributions to anna@narc.org.

FUNDING

[View full list of grants!](#)

Transitional Housing Assistance Grants for Victims of Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence and Stalking

Applications Due: February 16

The U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women makes grants to programs that provide 6-24 months of transitional housing with support services for victims who are homeless; in need of transitional housing due to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking; or not able access emergency shelter services or other crisis intervention services because they are unavailable or insufficient. Programs need to have a holistic, victim-centered approach to providing transitional housing services that move survivors into permanent housing. Support services offered should help integrate victims into a community. Examples of support services include employment counseling, occupational training, transportation, counseling, child care services, safety planning, case management, and other assistance.

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, Partners for Fish and Wildlife 2018

Applications Due: September 30

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative targets the most significant environmental problems in the Great Lakes ecosystem with federal funding and program implementation. One goal is to improve habitat and wildlife protection and restoration. Using appropriations from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) Program anticipates funding wetland (both coastal and interior) and associated upland habitat restoration and enhancement projects for conservation of native Great Lakes fish and wildlife populations. Restoration projects will be completed on privately owned (non-federal/non-state) lands. Emphasis will be placed on, but not limited to, completing projects within the watersheds of Great Lakes Areas of Concern and in coastal zones. Projects must advance their mission, promote biological diversity, and be based upon sound scientific biological principles. Applicants seeking funding under this program should review the program strategic plan and contact the PFW state coordinator PRIOR TO applying for funding.

EVENTS

[View full list of events!](#)

Advance Regional Collaboration on Water Management

January 17, 1:00-2:00 PM ET

One Water recognizes that if we tackle problems based on the complete life cycle of water and larger infrastructure systems – rather than limiting ourselves to one piece of the equation – we can identify and advance more effective and lasting solutions. Their current system of managing water is siloed across distinct municipalities, authorities, private businesses, and multiple regulatory agencies, all of which have narrow slices of authority over some aspect of water. This fragmentation weakens the overall system. Thus, regional collaboration is key to the future of sustainable water management. Join One Water for part one of a seven-part series diving into each of the Seven Big Ideas in the *One Water for America Policy Framework*.

Age-Friendly Communities and Rural America: The Transportation Challenge

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

There are approximately 10 million people aged 65 and older living in rural America, and one out of four lives in a small town or other rural area. Transportation options in rural areas tend to be more limited, and access to transportation is a rural imperative as it is a huge determining factor in aging well. Join Grantmakers in Aging to hear from two foundations and the Maricopa Association of Governments on how they have embraced the fundamental need for rural aging transportation and have taken the first steps to build and fund programs, and discuss the importance of partnerships in rural America.

Connected Intersections Tame Traffic Now & Prepare Communities for a Smarter Future

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

Join the Center for Digital Government and *Government Technology* to learn how “Connected Intersections” can help your community reduce traffic congestion, improve safety today, and prepare you for a future that includes smart highways and autonomous vehicles. Speakers will explain why adding connectivity and data analytics capabilities to your existing traffic intersections is both easier to do and more important than ever to consider.

Implementing Sustainability Plans and Livable Community Programs

January 19, 1:00-3:00 PM ET

The American Planning Association's Regional and Intergovernmental Planning Division and Lehigh Valley Planning Commission invite you to learn how three regional planning agencies used their U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Sustainable Communities Initiative Regional Planning Grants (SCI-RPG) to develop and implement Sustainability Plans and Livable Community Programs. This webinar is part of an ongoing series of meetings held by the APA Regional and Intergovernmental Planning Division organized to facilitate knowledge sharing between regional planning agencies across the country. The event will feature speakers from three of our regional members: Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), Mid-America Regional Council (MARC), and Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC). The speakers will discuss how the SCI-RPG grants helped recipients successfully create greater awareness of sustainability, increased interjurisdictional and cross-section collaborations, and more effective public

engagement efforts.

#CommunityFood: It Takes a Network

January 24, 3:30-4:45 PM ET

Across the U.S., non-profit community-based organizations are transforming food systems to create more equitable health, wealth, connection, and capacity within their communities. Some of the most creative and effective approaches to solving food insecurity, health disparities, economic inequity and environmental injustice emerge from this sector. As part of this webinar, the National Good Food Network will launch the Food Systems Leadership Network, a new national Community of Practice dedicated to supporting non-profit community-based organizations working on food systems change. This webinar will introduce the Food Systems Leadership Network, highlight its unique components (mentorship and grant opportunities!), and discuss how the Network will add value to both your organization's work and your growth as a food systems practitioner.

County Roles and Opportunities in Opioid Treatment for Justice-Involved Individuals

February 8, 2:00-3:15 PM ET

Join NACo for a three-part webinar series that will focus on key areas of local criminal justice systems and offer strategies to address these issues, make their justice systems work more effectively and efficiently, and ultimately lead to safer and healthier communities. Counties face many challenges in trying to treat opioid misuse and addiction in justice-involved individuals. This webinar will explore strategies to address this issue, including community-based treatment, treatment within the justice system and reentry planning.

CONTACT US

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