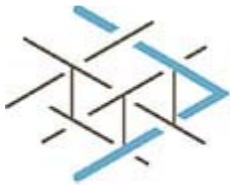


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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XIV, No. 3, January 21, 2014

eRegions

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

Lots happening at your Association... Erich was in Arizona meeting with transportation members all last week and will be conducting Hill meetings this week with Nathan, on MAP-21. Autumn and Anna are in Kansas City with members discussing the future of HUD Sustainability grants and performance monitoring. Marcy and Lindsey are working to flip to a new phone system at NARC, as well as prepare for the upcoming National Conference of Regions (NCR). Shannon is securing policy meetings and speakers for the

POLICY UPDATE

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES UPCOMING EVENTS

A promotional graphic for the 2014 National Conference of Regions. It features a 3D grid of blue cubes with a green globe in the center. To the right, the text reads "2014 NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF REGIONS" in blue, followed by "FEBRUARY 9-11, 2014 WASHINGTON, DC" in blue, and "REGISTER TODAY!" in red. The NARC logo and tagline "Building Regional Communities" are at the bottom left.

2014 NATIONAL
CONFERENCE OF REGIONS

FEBRUARY 9-11, 2014
WASHINGTON, DC

REGISTER TODAY!

 **NARC**
Building Regional Communities

POLICY UPDATE

Congress is out of session until January 27.

President Signs FY14 Omnibus into Law: On January 17, the President signed a \$1.1 trillion bill that funds all 12 appropriations bills for the remainder of Fiscal year (FY) 2014, through September 30, 2014. The bill sets discretionary spending at \$1.012 trillion and provides \$98 billion for defense and disaster relief. The bill also replaces sequester's across the board cut with targeted reductions to meet budget caps.

Fiscal 2014: Where the Money Goes

Figures are in millions of dollars of new budget authority. (Chart from *Congressional Quarterly*)

NCR, while Mia and Taylor are conducting a Solar Workshop in Detroit.

All of this is happening to continue NARC successes, give you the best possible events, and prepare for authorizations and appropriations in 2014. On an immediate note, we hope to see all of you at the NCR!

Best,
Fred

NARC LEADERSHIP

President

Hon. Penny Gross

Supervisor,
Fairfax County, VA

Chair Jim Hassinger,

Executive Directors
Council
Executive Director,
Southwestern
Pennsylvania
Commission

NARC STAFF

Fred Abousleman

Executive Director

Shannon Baxevanis

Deputy Director

Autumn Campbell

Director of Community

Programs

Mia Colson

	Fiscal 2013 with sequester	Obama's Fiscal 2014 budget	Fiscal 2014 House allocations	Fiscal 2014 Senate allocations	*Fiscal 2014 omnibus
<u>Agriculture</u>	\$19,560	\$19,970	\$19,450	\$20,930	\$20,880
<u>Commerce/Justice/Science</u>	47,020	51,191	46,845	52,272	51,600
<u>Defense</u>	486,297	516,974	512,522	516,624	486,851
OCO**	82,190	88,482	85,769	77,788	85,191
<u>Energy/Water</u>	34,263	34,483	30,426	34,773	34,060
<u>Financial Services</u>	19,874	23,440	16,966	23,031	21,851
<u>Homeland Security</u>	37,759	39,030	38,993	39,100	39,270
<u>Interior/Environment</u>	28,240	30,004	24,278	30,100	30,058
<u>Labor/HHS/Education</u>	149,640	165,801	121,797	164,330	156,773
<u>Legislative Branch</u>	4,061	4,508	4,124	4,350	4,258
<u>Military Construction-VA</u>	70,909	74,691	73,320	74,366	73,299
<u>State/Foreign Operations</u>	40,358	47,872	34,103	44,079	42,481
OCO	10,843	3,807	6,520	6,515	6,520
<u>Transportation/HUD</u>	48,441	51,585	44,100	54,045	50,856
Total	\$986,422	\$1,059,549	\$966,924	\$1,058,000	\$1,012,237
OCO	93,252	92,289	92,289	84,530	91,711

*Totals listed are discretionary spending levels applying toward the bills'

caps. House and Senate Appropriations committees.

**OCO - Overseas Contingency Operations

National Flood Insurance Program Update: Click [HERE](#) to access a National Association of Counties (NACo) presentation on the Biggert-Waters Act and The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Biggert-Waters was enacted in 2012 to reform NFIP; however, implementation has resulted in some challenges in local communities.

Negotiators Approaching Deal on Farm Bill: Reports from Conference Committee leaders hammering out a long-term Farm Bill reauthorization indicate that the panel could be closer than ever to delivering a compromise package. There may be a deal unveiled this week, positioning lawmakers to vote on agriculture and nutrition policy when the House and Senate return from recess next week. NARC will continue to provide updates on negotiations as developments occur.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Deadline: January 22

EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) has announced FY 2014 EPA funding for Brownfields Job Training Grants, Brownfields Revolving

Program Analyst

[Nathan Devers](#)

Intern

[Marcy Fritter](#)

Office Manager

[Bridget Gribbin](#)

Intern

[Taylor Markwith](#)

Program Associate

[Lindsey Riley](#)

Deputy of

Communications

[Anna Rosenbaum](#)

Communications

Associate

[Erich W. Zimmermann](#)

Director of

Transportation

Programs

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Loan Fund Grants, Brownfields Assessment Grants, Brownfields Multi-Purpose Grants, Brownfields Cleanup Grants, State Assistance Grant, Hazardous Waste Management Grant Program for Tribes, Tribal Solid Waste Management Assistance Project. More information is available [HERE](#) and the National Association of Local Government Environmental Professionals (NALGEP) will host a webinar on December 4th to discuss this opportunity. Sign up for the webinar [HERE](#).

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Deadline: January 23

As part of its Science to Achieve Results (STAR) program, EPA is seeking applications proposing research to improve understanding of the effects of climate change on indoor air quality and the resulting health effects. EPA is interested in supporting research that will explore the anticipated effects of climate change on indoor air quality directly through a variety of mechanisms, and indirectly through adaptations in building use and design. More information is available [HERE](#).

U.S. Department of the Interior – Bureau of Reclamation

Deadline: January 23

Funding is available through the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART program to support new Water and Energy Efficiency Grant projects. Proposals are sought from states, Indian tribes, irrigation districts, water districts and other organizations with water or power delivery authority to partner with Reclamation on projects that increase water conservation or result in other improvements that address water supply sustainability in the West. Information is available [HERE](#).

Letters of Interest for Green Infrastructure Projects

Letters Due: January 24

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Wastewater Management is seeking letters of interest from communities for green infrastructure projects. Selected communities will receive assistance from contractors paid by EPA. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

U.S. Department of Labor – Employment Training Administration

Deadline: January 27

The Employment and Training Administration (ETA), has announced \$100 million in grant funds for the Youth CareerConnect grant program. The program is designed to provide high school students with education and training that combines rigorous academic and technical curricula focused on specific in-demand occupations and industries for which employers are using H-1B visas to hire foreign workers as well as the related activities necessary to support such training to increase participants' employability in H-1B in-demand industries and

occupations. More information is available [HERE](#).

National Science Foundation (NSF) - Cyber-Physical Systems

Deadline: January 29

The National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have a shared interest in advancing basic and applied research in Cyber Physical Systems (CPS), which are systems in which physical processes are tightly intertwined with networked computing. For transportation, CPS will provide the foundation necessary for a safe, efficient highway transportation system connecting vehicles, infrastructure, people, and goods in a vibrant, competitive economy. More information is available [HERE](#).

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Deadline: January 30

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced the availability of \$181 million to develop commercial-scale biorefineries or retrofit existing facilities with appropriate technology to develop advanced biofuels. Funding is available through the Biorefinery Assistance Program provides loan guarantees to viable commercial-scale facilities to develop new and emerging technologies for advanced biofuels. The announcement is available [HERE](#), more information about the program is available [HERE](#) and the full text of the Federal Register notice is available [HERE](#).

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Deadline: January 31

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) has announced funding for the Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Competitive Grant Program, which will support projects that reduce communities' vulnerability to the growing risks from coastal storms, sea level rise, flooding, erosion, and associated threats through strengthening natural ecosystems that also benefit fish and wildlife. The program will award more than \$100 million in grants to states officially declared a natural disaster as a result of Hurricane Sandy. Details available [HERE](#).

Health Impact Project

Funding Announced in February

The Health Impact Project, a collaboration of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts, is planning to launch a call for proposals for funding in February 2014. Grants will support health impact assessment (HIA) demonstration projects as well as development of HIA programs to integrate health in decision-making. More information on this opportunity is available [HERE](#).

U.S. Department of Housing

Deadline: February 3

Funding is available for FY 2013 and FY 2014 Continuum of Care Program Competition (CoC) to promote a community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness; to provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, States, and local governments to quickly re-house the homeless while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused by homelessness; to promote access to and effective utilization of mainstream programs by the homeless; and to optimize self-sufficiency among those experiencing homelessness. Full text of the notice of funding availability (NOFA) is available [HERE](#).

National Science Foundation - Cyber-Enabled Sustainability Science and Engineering

Deadline: February 4

The Cyber-Enabled Sustainability Science and Engineering (CyberSEES) program aims to advance interdisciplinary research in which the science and engineering of sustainability are enabled by new advances in computing, and where computational innovation is grounded in the context of sustainability problems. Read more [HERE](#).

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Deadline: February 5

The Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program seeks to develop nation-wide-community stewardship of local natural resources, preserving resources for future generations and enhancing habitat for local wildlife. Projects seek to address water quality issues in priority watersheds, such as erosion due to unstable streambanks, pollution from stormwater runoff, and degraded shorelines caused by development. More information is available [HERE](#).

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Deadline: February 18

The Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving (CPS) Cooperative Agreement Program provides funding for eligible applicants for projects that address local environmental and public health issues within an affected community. The CPS Program is designed to help communities understand and address exposure to multiple environmental harms and risks. More information about this opportunity is available [HERE](#).

Energy for Sustainability

Deadline: February 20

This program supports fundamental research and education that will enable innovative processes for the sustainable production of electricity and

transportation fuels. Processes for sustainable energy production must be environmentally benign, reduce greenhouse gas production, and utilize renewable resources. Current interest areas in sustainable energy technologies are: Biomass Conversion, Biofuels & Bioenergy, Photovoltaic Solar Energy, Wind Energy, and Advanced Batteries for Transportation. Learn more about this program [HERE](#).

U.S. Department of Agriculture – Value-Added Producer Grant Program

Deadline: February 24

The USDA announced \$10.5 million in carry-over funding from 2013 to help U.S. agricultural producers enter into value-added activities. Awards may be made for either economic planning or working capital activities related to the processing and/or marketing of valued- added agricultural products. More information is available [HERE](#).

U.S. Department of Energy

Deadline: Concept Papers due January 13; Final applications due March 13

As part of a new \$19 million investment in solar energy, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced funding available under the SunShot Incubator 9 program. This program will focus on early-stage support for small companies, encouraging private-sector investment and seeking app and web developers from both inside and outside of the energy industry to zero in on reducing soft costs of solar adoption. More information is available [HERE](#).

U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration

Deadlines: March 14 for funding cycle 3 of FY 2014;

June 13 for funding cycle 4 of FY 2014

EDA is soliciting applications from applicants in rural and urban areas to provide investments that support construction, non-construction, technical assistance, and revolving loan fund projects under EDA's Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance programs. Grants and cooperative agreements made under these programs are designed to leverage existing regional assets and support the implementation of economic development strategies that advance new ideas and creative approaches to advance economic prosperity in distressed communities. EDA provides competitive, merit-based investments that support economic development, foster job creation, and attract private investment in economically distressed areas of the United States. The full announcement is available [HERE](#).

National Science Foundation - Environmental Sustainability

Deadline: March 20

The Environmental Sustainability program supports engineering research that seeks to balance society's need to provide ecological protection and maintain

stable economic conditions. Research in Environmental Sustainability typically considers long time horizons and may incorporate contributions from the social sciences and ethics. There are four principal general research areas which are supported: Industrial Ecology, Green Engineering, Ecological Engineering, Earth Systems Engineering. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

Climate Solutions University Accepting Applications

Application Deadline: Rolling

The Model Forest Policy Program is offering a special funding opportunity for qualifying U.S. urban and rural communities working together addressing ecosystem services. Urban decision makers need to plan for climate impacts that result from land changes beyond their jurisdictional boundaries. To find out more about the Climate Solutions University, click [HERE](#).

UPCOMINGEVENTS

WEBINAR: The Urban Forest- What Planners Need to Know

January 22, 2:00-3:30 PM EST

As urban areas and communities expand, so do the urban and community forests and the need to manage these important resources. This webinar will explore a variety of concepts and tools that are important for land use planners to consider when planning for urban forest conservation and management. Click [HERE](#) to register.

WEBINAR: Green Goods: How to Create Sustainable County Purchasing and Procurement Programs

January 22, 2:00-3:15 PM EST

This National Association of Counties webinar will explore how local governments can develop an environmentally preferred purchasing program, navigate the myriad of product eco-labels and green purchasing guidelines, and hear success stories from counties that have established sustainable purchasing and procurement programs. Register [HERE](#).

FREE Regional Solar Workshop: Detroit, MI

January 23, 8:30-12:30 PM EST

Local governments interested in learning about how to make their community solar ready in Southeast Michigan are invited to a free workshop sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy's SunShot Solar Outreach Partnership, City of Lathrup Village, Southeast Michigan Regional Energy Office and NARC. The workshop will provide actionable information on creating local –level solar policies and permitting processes. Areas of focus include: (1) The benefits and barriers of solar development in your region; (2) Revising planning and zoning codes and

ordinances; and (3) Streamlining the permitting processes to enable solar development in your community. For more information and to register for the event, click [HERE](#).

NARC's 2014 National Conference of Regions

February 9-11, Washington, DC

The National Conference of Regions is the forum that NARC uses to determine key policy issues and a legislative agenda on topics of relevance and importance to executive directors and local elected officials representing regional organizations and boards. Registration, hotel information and a draft agenda are available on the conference website [HERE](#).

New Partners for Smart Growth Conference: “Are Your Building and Land Use Codes Ready for the Changing Climate?”

February 13-15, Denver, CO

The New Partners for Smart Growth Conference fosters discussion on building safe, healthy, equitable and prosperous communities. The conference will feature a session that explores code changes that communities can make to better prepare themselves for climate change in addition to providing other benefits. Register [HERE](#).

NARC's 48th Annual Conference and Exhibition

June 6-11, Louisville, KY

The Annual Conference and Exhibition is the largest national event focused on promoting effective regional cooperation and solutions through interaction and education. Held annually in June, NARC's Annual Conference is the premier place to learn how to engage in effective regional collaboration. Additional information will be available in early 2014.

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