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## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

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# eRegions

### EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

We are two weeks away from the National Conference of Regions (NCR) and I am excited about the content, presenters and opportunities for regional leaders to share and learn. We have confirmed HUD Secretary Donovan, FEMA Administrator Fugate, and others to discuss our nations priorities. We have also booked Dr. Mark Funkhouser, Director of the Governing Institute, to discuss our current fiscal policy. The Institute, "advances better government by focusing on improved outcomes through research, decision support, and

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## 2013 NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF REGIONS

FEBRUARY 10-12, 2013

THE RITZ-CARLTON HOTEL  
WASHINGTON, DC

**REGISTER TODAY!**

## PROGRAMUPDATE

**NARC's MAP-21 Implementation Meetings:** NARC is hosting regional roundtables to examine and discuss the implementation of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) from the perspective of metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) and regional councils of government (COGs). Click [HERE](#) to register for one of the following roundtables or [HERE](#) for additional information and to access the agendas for each meeting.

- **Phoenix, AZ** - January 31, 2013
- **Indianapolis, IN** - February 27-28, 2013
- **Tulsa, OK** - March 4-5, 2013
- **Worcester, MA** - March 8, 2013

executive education to help public sector leaders govern more effectively.” The Institute is affiliated with *Governing Magazine*. Please register to attend the premier event for regional leaders today.

We launched our MAP-21 listening sessions. Staff is on the road discussing with regions around the country the opportunities and obstacles to implementing MAP-21. From these sessions, we will build out information for Congress and the Administration on lessons learned for the next authorization of surface transportation. Last week NARC was in Orlando, this week they are in Sacramento and Phoenix.

I hope to see you all in D.C. for the NCR

Best,

Fred

Management Tip of the Week: [Is the paperless office possible?](#)

Tech Tip of the Week: NARC Uses [GoToMeeting](#) for our conference call needs.

- **Washington, DC** - March 14, 2013

**NARC February Committee Webinar:** The next transportation committee webinar will be held on Tuesday, February 19, 2013, from 12:00-2:00 pm and will offer NARC members the opportunity to communicate directly with the U.S. Federal Highway Administration’s (FHWA’s) Office of Planning on their 2013 priorities. As the U.S. Department of Transportation proceeds with implementation of the recently enacted federal surface transportation law, don’t miss this opportunity to hear about FHWA’s planning activities, as well as communicate your regions needs in order to better implement the new law and associated regulations. Click [HERE](#) to register.

**NARC Needs Your Livability Case Studies:** NARC continues to solicit best practice examples of regional and local livability practice from a variety of perspectives. Feel free to submit your case study [HERE](#) and share this opportunity with your cities, counties, public works departments and city and county managers.

**Regional Solar Podcast: Renewable Energy Certificates:** Rich Deming, (Senior Partner at Calor Energy and Walter Putnam; and Partner at Shift Equity) joined the NARC to explain Renewable Energy Certificates. Click [HERE](#) to learn about how local governments can utilize Renewable Energy Certificates as easily as private entities.

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## **POLICY**UPDATE

**Farm Bill Update: Senate Majority Leader Signals Farm Bill as Priority for 113th Congress:** Last week, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid introduced a Farm Bill reauthorization proposal ([S 10](#)) paving the way for Senate Agriculture Committee Members to take up reauthorization discussions in the near term. Reid introduced the previously passed Senate version, which won bipartisan chamber approval last year as part of a slate of privileged top-priority bills. Senate Agriculture Committee Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow indicated the committee will mark up the measure as soon as possible.

**Senate Poised for Major Votes This Week; Budget Complications Loom:** Hurricane Sandy Relief and the debt ceiling extension are both slated for Senate consideration this week. Votes are expected today on \$50.5 billion in supplemental spending for Hurricane Sandy Relief ([HR 152](#)) efforts and could consider the House-backed proposal for a three-

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month extension on the debt-ceiling trigger ([HR 325](#)). Even with action on these two items, Congress is fast-approaching the March 1 sequestration deadline and March 27 end to the current federal funding law.

**Senate Budget Committee Chairman Patty Murray Crafting Chamber's First Budget Proposal In Three Years.** The Senate's budget could be vastly different from House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan's proposal. Murray will seek additional revenue sources to achieve a 10-year balanced budget. Senate Budget Committee Members are seeking public feedback and input as they craft the proposal. More information is available [HERE](#).

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## REGIONS360

**Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) Launches Website to Promote Local Food Systems:** As part of the Go to 2040 regional plan for prosperity, CMAP launched an online resource and short documentary aimed at educating local elected officials, planners and economic development practitioners on the importance of promoting and supporting local agriculture. The site is available [HERE](#).

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## GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

### **The Gannett Foundation's Community Action Grants**

*Application Deadline: February 16, 2013.*

The Foundation's Community Action Grants support nonprofit organizations with funding priority given to programs that focus on education and neighborhood improvement, economic development, youth development, community problem-solving, assistance to disadvantaged people, environmental conservation and cultural enrichment. For more information on these grants, click [HERE](#).

### **HHS New Access Point Grants Grant**

*Application Deadline: February 27, 2013*

The Health Resources Services Administration supports funding for the Health Center Program's New Access Point Grants. These awards will provide operational support for Health Centers nationally that provide primary health care services to under-served and vulnerable populations. For more information on these grants click, [HERE](#).

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# UPCOMINGEVENTS

## ***NARC's MAP-21 Implementation Roundtable***

**January 31, 2013, Phoenix, AZ**

NARC is hosting regional roundtables to examine and discuss the implementation of MAP-21 from the perspective of metropolitan planning organizations and regional councils of government. Click [HERE](#) to register for one of the following roundtables or [HERE](#) for additional information.

## ***2013 National Conference of Regions***

**February 10-12, 2013, Washington, DC**

Register today for this premier event, focused on all that is happening in Washington, DC. Local elected officials, executive directors and staff of regional and metropolitan planning organizations need to be here! Click [HERE](#) for registration and hotel reservation information.

## ***NARC's MAP-21 Implementation Roundtable***

**February 27-28, 2013, Indianapolis, IN**

Click [HERE](#) to register for one of the following roundtables or [HERE](#) for additional information.

## ***NARC's MAP-21 Implementation Roundtable***

**March 4-5, 2013, Tulsa, OK**

Click [HERE](#) to register for one of the following roundtables or [HERE](#) for additional information.

## ***NIEM Technical Training***

**March 5-7, 2013**

The IJIS Institute is hosting a three day, grant funded (for state and local government), Western Region NIEM technical training course on March 5-7, in Phoenix AZ at the NLETS Training Facility. This three day technical course is intended for information exchange developers and implementers and is designed to guide students through the National Information Exchange Model (NIEM) in a structured process. The NIEM Technical Training curriculum is designed for developers and practitioners in the field to provide the information needed to enable them to build applications using NIEM and use it effectively. Please visit [the IJIS Institute website](#) to register or to find out more about the course.

***NARC's MAP-21 Implementation Roundtable***

**March 8, 2013, Worcester, MA**

Click [HERE](#) to register for one of the following roundtables or [HERE](#) for additional information.

***NARC's MAP-21 Implementation Roundtable***

**March 14, 2013, Washington, DC**

Click [HERE](#) to register for one of the following roundtables or [HERE](#) for additional information.

***American Planning Association's National Conference***

**April 13-17, 2013, Chicago, IL**

The American Planning Association (APA) holds an annual conference that draws more than 4,000 planners and professionals from related fields. This year's conference will have [one-day forums](#) including a Transportation Day and a Law Day. Click [HERE](#) to register and for additional information.

***Brownfields Renewal: Bringing Stakeholders Together***

**May 15-17, 2012, Atlanta, GA**

The National Brownfields Conference is the largest event in the nation that focuses on environmental revitalization and economic redevelopment. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

***NARC's 47th Annual Conference and Exhibition***

**June 20-23, 2013, Philadelphia, PA**

Save the Date for NARC's annual conference will focus on best practice and programming for regional and metropolitan planning organizations nationwide. Executive Directors and Staff of regional organizations should plan on attending!

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