

February 16, 2016 [View this email in your browser](#)



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

eREGIONS

HIGHLIGHT

Make an Impact on National Energy Policy!

NARC is working on a new building energy codes initiative with six other national organizations. NARC's role in the project is to inform regional councils and their member local governments about the upcoming November 2016 vote on the **2018 International Energy Conservation Code**. In order to vote, all local governments and city agencies must be members of the **International Code Council (ICC)** by March 18, 2016.

Join NARC for a webinar on Wednesday, February 17 to discuss what is at stake in the next vote and what regional councils' member jurisdictions MUST do to be eligible to cast a vote. Visit <http://bit.ly/energycodewebinar> to register.

We are also seeking opportunities to either disseminate educational materials or call into relevant committees/working groups' meetings at the end of February or beginning of March. If your organization has a committee that would be interested in learning more about this opportunity, please send an email to anna@narc.org. To learn more about this initiative and how your region can get involved, visit www.narc.org/energy-codes.

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

Both the House and Senate are on recess and will reconvene early next week.

Overview

The sudden death of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia sets up an intense partisan battle for a successor and means uncertainty for pending cases before the Supreme Court. A House panel plans a second hearing on the water crisis in Flint, Michigan and Senators seek to resolve a top state and local government priority on whether online sales can be taxed.

President's Final Budget Request Sent to Congress

Characterized as "dead on arrival," President Obama released the last budget of his Administration last Tuesday. Filled with policy proposals, the budget blueprint was met with accolades from supporters and dismissals from opponents, much like previous presidential budget releases. The budget proposes \$2.9 trillion in deficit reduction over the decade from FY 2017 to 2026, and the Congressional Budget Office recently predicted a sharp rise in deficits due to spending without raising revenues. Administration officials have spent the days since the release of the budget talking to lawmakers and appearing before congressional panels promoting the specific proposals.

Discretionary spending still constitutes a third of the overall federal budget. Mandatory spending such as Social Security, Medicare, and other entitlement programs are the largest (and growing) portion of the budget, crowding out spending for other programs such as transportation and environmental infrastructure, education, housing and community development, energy initiatives,

and emergency planning.

OTHER NEWS

NACo Report Examines Efforts to Foster Economic Opportunities while Reducing Crime

The National Association of Counties (NACo) released *Second Chances, Safer Counties: Workforce Development and Reentry*, a new research report that examines county efforts to foster economic opportunities while reducing crime. Reentry programs offer a way for counties to reintegrate formerly incarcerated residents into the labor market, which is instrumental to keeping them in communities safely and out of jail. The study finds that the federal government, through the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act* (WIOA), largely supports these local programs. In 2015, WIOA enabled federal investments of more than \$3.2 billion in states and local areas for education, training and employment services, including reentry programs.

FEATURED JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Communications Specialist

Wasatch Front Regional Council, Salt Lake City, UT

Public Service Director, Cabinet-Level

City of Columbus Columbus Civil Service Commission, Columbus, OH

Technology Director, Cabinet-Level

City of Columbus Columbus Civil Service Commission, Columbus, OH

Public Safety Director, Cabinet-Level

City of Columbus Columbus Civil Service Commission, Columbus, OH

FUNDING

[View full list of grants!](#)

Inclusive Transportation Planning Grants

Application deadline: March 18

Your organization can now apply for a new round of ACL-funded demonstration grants. The grants seek to make transportation more responsive to the needs of people with disabilities and older adults by giving consumers a voice in the design and implementation of coordinated transportation systems.

Local Food Producer Outreach, Education, and Training Grants

Application deadline: April 21

The Food Drug Administration recently announced the availability of funding for local food producer outreach, education, and training for the purpose of enhancing Food Safety and Food Safety Modernization Act Compliance in FY 2016. Projects will research and identify training, outreach and education and technical assistance needs, deliver outreach and training, and develop and adapt materials that facilitate the integration and understanding of federal food safety regulations and guidance among owners and operators of small and mid-size farms and businesses involved in local food production.

EVENTS

[View full list of events!](#)

T4A Webinar: The Scenic Route

February 17, 3:30 PM ET

Join Transportation for America (T4A) online tomorrow as they unveil *The Scenic Route*, with special guests APANO and Springboard for the Arts, to share what Creative Placemaking is, how

communities are currently using it, and how you might use it as well. This webinar will address how we understand our local, authentic experiences through arts and culture and how to create more vibrant communities that represent all residents.

PEW Live Webcast: How to Combat America's Opioid Epidemic

February 19, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM ET

Prescription opioid overdoses kill 44 Americans every day. The good news is that some policy approaches are showing promise. Hear what's next in prevention and treatment from Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin, a leader in the fight to end this epidemic. Governor Shumlin will share evidence-based programs and successes from his state's prevention, recovery, and treatment efforts. Q&A with the audience to follow.

Pathways to Opportunity: Housing, Transportation, and Social Mobility

February 23, 2:00 – 4:00 PM ET

Two important factors connecting communities to employment, education, and vital services are affordable housing and transportation. While improving proximity and access to jobs alone won't solve social mobility challenges, it can ameliorate problems like segregation, concentrated poverty, and low-density sprawl that pose real barriers to economic progress for low-income families. Join in person or by webcast to hear Brookings Vice President and Director of the Metropolitan Policy Program moderate a conversation between HUD Secretary Julián Castro and Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. The conversation will be followed by a response panel of experts from metropolitan areas across the country who will discuss local level impacts.

2016 EDA National Conference

April 7-8, Washington, DC

This year's event will focus on the next 50 years of economic development, including high-level conversations about how to create conditions for economic growth for decades to come, panel discussions with administration and congressional officials, and in-depth analysis from public and private sector economic development leaders.

CONTACT US

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