

Email not displaying correctly? Click [HERE](#) to view it as a PDF.



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XIII, No. 7, February 25, 2013

eRegions

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

It's sequester week in Washington D.C. Sunday, the President released [state-by-state reports on sequester effects](#). U.S. DOT Secretary LaHood held a White House [press briefing](#) on sequester and transportation.

NARC President Shafer called members to action last week and submitted a Letter to Congress on sequester ([here](#)). The sequester takes effect Friday. The White House reports everything from air traffic controllers to CDC responses to epidemics being affected. U.S. DOD stated 800,000 civilian defense personnel will be furloughed.

The Pew Center [reports](#) little public support for the

PROGRAM UPDATE POLICY UPDATE

MEMBER UPDATES

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES UPCOMING EVENTS

Message from Chair Dey, Executive Directors Council: Thanks to the good work of the NARC staff, we had a successful National Conference of Regions. There were many informative and educational sessions; of special interest to me was the session on the **Future of Regions**. You may obtain a copy of the NARC White Paper on this topic by contacting Lindsey. The Executive Directors Council approved Santa Monica, California, as the location of the fall executive directors training conference, hosted by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). Specific dates are yet to be decided.

The NARC staff is closely monitoring the impact of ongoing negotiations in Congress regarding sequestration, deficit reduction and FY 2013 budget on regional development programs of interest to regional councils and MPOs. Stay tuned to e-Regions and special bulletins from NARC for timely updates. Lastly, mark your calendars for the NARC Annual Conference in Philadelphia, June 23 through 26.

Sean

sequester. If you haven't – make a call or write a letter to your [congressional delegation](#).

Best,
Fred

NARC LEADERSHIP

President

Hon. David F. Shafer,
Clerk/Treasurer,
Town of Munster, IN

Chair Sean Dey,

Executive Directors Council
Executive Director, West
Michigan Shoreline Regional
Development Commission

NARC STAFF

Fred Aoulosleman

Executive Director

Shannon Baxevanis

Deputy Director

Autumn Campbell

Director of Community
Programs

Mia Colson

Program Analyst

Valerie Hermanson

Communications Associate

Lindsey Riley

Deputy of Communications

Erika Young

Transportation Director

To access past issues of
eRegions, [visit our website](#).

Make NARC your homepage

—
[click here to learn how](#).

PROGRAM UPDATE

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.

- **Indianapolis, IN** - February 27-28, 2013
- **Tulsa, OK** - March 4-5, 2013
- **Worcester, MA** - March 8, 2013
- **Washington, DC** - March 14, 2013

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.

POLICY UPDATE

Congress is in session.

Sequester Update: Congress is working on legislation to address the impending March 1 sequester cuts (\$85B in cuts). It is expected that much of the legislative business this week will focus on this. The Senate is to take up competing sequester bills including, the American Family Economic Protection Act, a \$110B sequester replacement split evenly between spending cuts and raising taxes. If passed, it would delay sequester until January 2, 2014. Senate Republicans may back a proposal that would keep the sequester but would give agencies greater flexibility to manage the \$85 billion in cuts. Under the plan to grant flexible spending or reprogramming authority, departments and agencies would be allowed to make alternative spending cuts rather than having all accounts cut by a fixed percentage. The plan would apply to both defense and domestic programs. Another Senate Republican plan, S. 263, offered by Sen. Ayotte (R-NH), would cover the cost of canceling the first year of sequestration by allowing the federal workforce to shrink

by 10% through attrition. The House is said to be waiting for the Senate's legislation. President Obama is pushing for congressional activity, wanting \$2 in spending cuts for every \$1 in revenue for a sequester replacement bill. He has stated he would support something with as little as 2 months in delay of sequester.

Visit NARC's sequestration webpage for more information: [HERE](#)

Workforce Proposals Introduced in House: Two proposals were introduced in the House Education and Workforce Committee to reauthorize and replace the 1998 Workforce Investment Act, which hasn't been reauthorized since 2003. Both proposals seek to improve and streamline state and local Workforce Investment Board activities and better strategically align training with high-growth industry needs. The Democratic proposal, the Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2013, HR 798, would outline a series of updates to the system. The Republican measure, Supporting Knowledge and Investing in Lifelong Skills (SKILLS) Act, "eliminates or streamlines 35 ineffective or duplicate programs" in favor of a block grant fund. The Committee will hold a hearing tomorrow on the SKILLS Act. NARC's policy on Workforce Reauthorization and more info on both proposals is [HERE](#). Senate HELP Committee leaders are reported to be working on a bipartisan proposal to introduce this session.

Secretary Vilsak to testify at House Ag Committee Hearing to Assess State of Rural Economy: Tomorrow Secretary of Agriculture Vilsak will brief the House Agriculture Committee on the state of the rural economy. Included in the 2008 Farm Bill, which expired last September, many Rural Development provisions were left out of the temporary reauthorization included in the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012. House and Senate Ag Committee leaders are working to reintroduce long-term proposals this session. More information on the hearing, including additional witnesses is available [HERE](#).

MEMBERUPDATES

CMP Plan RFP: KYOVA Interstate Planning Commission is seeking Letters of Interest from qualified firms to develop a comprehensive Congestion Management Process (CMP) for the Huntington, West Virginia Transportation Management Area (TMA), and portions of

the Charleston, West Virginia Urbanized Area. Click [HERE](#) for additional information on this Request for Proposals (RFP).

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

The U.S. EPA Smart Growth Implementation Assistance (SGIA) Program

Application Deadline: March 1, 2013

SGIA is accepting letters of interest, by March 1, for expert assistance on overcoming barriers to smart growth implementation. This year, the program will focus on: 1) Community Resilience to Disasters and Climate Change, 2) Redevelopment for Job Creation, 3) The Role of Manufactured and Modular Homes in Sustainable Neighborhood Design, and 4) Medical and Social Service Facilities Siting. For more information, visit the [request for letters of interest](#).

RE.invest Initiative Funding

Application Deadline: March 15, 2013

The RE.invest Initiative was developed to create a shift in the way we design, plan, and invest in resilient infrastructure systems to attract large-scale private financing. For more information, click [HERE](#).

The U.S. Administration for Community Living Issues Request For Proposals

Application Deadline: March 20, 2013

Strengthening Inclusive Coordinated Transportation Partnerships to Promote Community Living is a new program seeking request for proposals for innovative inclusive transportation planning projects. These projects are a key component in the overall program's efforts to improve consumer involvement and ensure greater responsiveness to consumers' needs in the planning, design and operation of coordinated transportation systems. A teleconference with more information will be held March 5, 2013, at 2 pm EST. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

NOAA Climate Program Office Funding

Application Deadline: April 8, 2013

The NOAA Climate Program Office's Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (RISA) program supports research teams that conduct innovative, interdisciplinary, user-inspired, and regionally

relevant research that informs resource management and public policy. For more information, click [HERE](#).

EPA's Smart Growth Achievement Funding

Application Deadline: April 12, 2013

The application period for the 12th annual National Award for Smart Growth Achievement is now open to public- and private-sector entities that have successfully used smart growth principles to improve communities environmentally, socially, and economically. For more information, click [HERE](#).

Health Resources & Services Administration: Rural Health Information Technology (HIT) Workforce Program

Application Deadline: April 15

The Rural HIT program supports formal rural health networks that focus on activities relating to the recruitment, education, training, and retention of HIT specialists and improve existing HIT training materials to develop formal training programs. These formal training programs will result in the development of a cadre of HIT workers that can help rural hospitals and clinics implement and maintain systems, such as electronic health records (EHR), telehealth, home monitoring and mobile health technology, and meet EHR meaningful use standards. For more information, please see [HERE](#).

USDA Farm to School Grant Program

Application Due: April 24, 2013

The purpose of the USDA Farm to School Grant Program is to assist implementation of programs that improve access to local foods in eligible schools. The program's grants help eligible schools foster sustainability by connecting with local agricultural producers and help improve the health and wellbeing of their students. For more information, click [HERE](#).

UPCOMINGEVENTS

Ecosystem Services: Water Focus Webinar

February 27, 2:00-3:30 PM ET

Learn about the growing trend of ecosystem service markets as a tool for planning and conservation efforts. Click [HERE](#) for more 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.

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.

FHWA Office of Innovative Program Delivery TIFIA Assistance Program

March 7, 2013, 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Office of Innovative Program Delivery will host Introduction to Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) Federal Credit Assistance Program. The webinar will assist Transportation Professionals to understand TIFIA fundamentals, identify eligible projects that may benefit from TIFIA credit assistance, provide better guidance; and enable Transportation Professionals to provide better guidance to State and local partners. Click [HERE](#) to register.

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.

REMI 2013 Training Conference

May 8-10, 2013, Washington, DC

The conference will offer group presentations on the models and methodologies, as well as workshops and one-on-one technical support sessions from REMI economists; it is a unique opportunity for in-depth, focused analysis, connecting with peers involved in economic impact analysis, and experiencing the sights and sounds of the capital in spring. There is no charge to attend, though registration is required. Click [HERE](#) 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!

We are sending you this email primarily for your information, to meet your needs, further our valued relationship and because you requested to receive electronic newsletters from the National Association of Regional Councils. Please forward as appropriate.

[Unsubscribe](#) lindsey@narc.org from this list.

Our mailing address is:
National Association of Regional Councils
777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 305
Washington, DC 20002

[Add us to your address book](#)

Copyright (C) 2013 National Association of Regional Councils All rights reserved.

[Forward](#) this email to a friend
[Update your profile](#)