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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XIII, No. 9, March 11, 2013

eRegions

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

Our federal budget and sequester information has been updated to reflect the latest actions taken by Congress and the Administration. Of the many concerns we have with the Continuing Resolution (CR) is an issue in transportation that would cut the authorized amounts we can spend in the CR below what MAP-21 authorized. This coupled with the tentative passage of the bill in the Senate (see Policy Update) and sequester flexibility options are making this legislative budget cycle a high priority for us.

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PROGRAM UPDATE

Houston Regional Solar Workshop: NARC is partnering with the Houston-Galveston Area Council to host a solar workshop on April 9, 2013, 8:30-12:30pm. Come join us for a free interactive workshop on how to bolster solar energy in the southeast Texas region. The workshop will focus on energy planning to facilitate solar installations; state and local incentives for solar energy; innovative financing options for solar projects and more! For more information and to register, click [HERE](#).

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: **Washington, DC** - March 14, 2013; **Worcester, MA** - April 19, 2013.

NARC's March Transportation Committee Webinar on Federal Budget and Transportation: On March 12, 2013, from 12:00-2:00pm

We released a budget report last week, available [HERE](#), and will be updating you on the CR as it moves forward.

We are also working on the Supporting Knowledge and Investing in Lifelong Skills (HR 803) the "SKILLS" Act which is a House bill on workforce investment. You'll see more information this week on this bill.

The Appalachian Regional Council and the Development District Association of Appalachia concluded their Washington conference, which we help sponsor, this week. Congratulations to them on their success.

Best,
Fred

NARCLEADERSHIP

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

ET, NARC's Transportation Funding and Finance Subcommittee will host its next, monthly Transportation Committee webinar. March is an important month in the federal budget process, with several transportation-related implications. This webinar will review the connection between the federal budget process, provide an update on the potential impacts of the federal sequester and review national level trends in funding transportation. Click [HERE](#) to register and [HERE](#) for the agenda.

Nominate a Community Resilience Leader as a Champion of

Change: The White House Champions of Change program highlights the stories and examples of citizens across the country who are "Winning the Future" with projects and initiatives that move their communities forward. Click [HERE](#) for information on this year's nomination process.

POLICYUPDATE

The Senate is in session; the House is in pro forma session.

Sequester Update: Click [HERE](#) to access a NARC PowerPoint updated to include sequestration implementation information as well as other critical budget issues. Visit [NARC's sequestration webpage](#) for more information.

Continuing Resolution Update: This week the Senate will take up HR 933, a continuing resolution (CR) to maintain government funding through the remainder of fiscal year 2013. The bill includes full-year Defense and Military/Construction/Veterans Appropriations bills, restoring \$7 billion and providing more latitude to shift money among defense programs. All other programs in the bill are funded at FY12 levels and are subject to sequestration. The Senate bill will add three more spending bills — Agriculture, Commerce-Justice-Science and Homeland Security. Senate Democrats may push to give other domestic agencies flexibility for sequester. The current CR expires on March 27. Visit NARC's federal budget webpage for regular updates.

Brownfields Update - Senators Introduce Bipartisan BUILD Act:

Last week Democratic and Republican Members of the EPW Committee, Senators Frank Lautenberg, Tom Udall, Jim Inhofe and Mike Crapo, teamed up to introduce a bipartisan proposal aimed at modernizing and improving the EPA's Brownfield's Program. The Brownfields Utilization, Investment, and Local Development "BUILD" Act would reauthorize and

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expand funding flexibility for the Brownfields program, which provides support to cleanup properties subject to environmental contamination. There are over 450,000 designated Brownfields sites in the country today. Full bill text is available [HERE](#).

Workforce Update - Workforce Committee Democrats Walk Out on Key Vote; Republican Bill Slated for House Consideration This

Week: Last Week 18 Democrats on the House Education and Workforce Committee walked out of the full committee mark-up of HR 803, the Supporting Knowledge and Investing in Lifelong Skills “SKILLS” Act. The Skills Act, which passed the committee with Republican support, is the majority's proposal that would reauthorize and replace the current Workforce Investment Act with a consolidated block grant fund, which democratic members oppose. HR 803 will likely be considered by the full chamber on Wednesday. Full bill text is [HERE](#) and NARC will send a member update with additional information and call to action before floor consideration.

MEMBERUPDATE

DVRPC Launches Renewable Energy Ordinance Frameworks: The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) launched their Renewable Energy Ordinance Frameworks to aid municipal governments in the development of renewable energy ordinances for solar, small-wind, and geothermal energy systems. To access the frameworks, and to learn more about the Alternative Energy Ordinance Working Group, please click [HERE](#).

PARTNERUPDATE

NLC Releases MyDistrictData: The National League of Cities, in partnership with Citi Community Development, an NLC Capstone Corporate Partner, and PolicyMap, recently launched [MyDistrictData.com](#), an interactive, web-based tool that provides on-demand reports based on economic, employment, financial, educational and housing conditions. This free tool has the ability to present a district snapshot intended to inform smart policy-making through accessible and reliable data. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

MEMBER ASSISTANCE REQUEST

Solar Activities: As part of NARC's [SunShot Solar Outreach Partnership](#) (SolarOPs) project, NARC is looking for examples of regional councils who have done work in the field of **solar energy**. This can include working with one of your local governments or partners on their solar projects, or including solar energy within other regional sustainability or energy planning efforts. NARC is open to any feedback you can provide. Please contact Mia Colson directly at mia@narc.org with any response.

Organizational Leadership: A PhD student pursuing her degree in Organizational Leadership is in need of research participants to complete her dissertation research. The survey will only take 10-15 minutes to complete. The purpose of the research is to study leadership and its impact on employees within an organization. The study focuses on your opinions and your responses will be sent directly to the researcher once you submit your survey. All responses are anonymous and confidential. Please complete the survey by Friday, March 14, 2013; click [HERE](#) to access the survey. Once complete, a copy of the dissertation will be circulated to NARC membership.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

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

NARC's MAP-21 Implementation Roundtable

March 14, 2013, Washington, DC

Click [HERE](#) to register for the roundtable or [HERE](#) for additional information.

Upcoming Climate & Energy Webinars

March 14, 1:00-2:00pm ET: Benchmark Water/Wastewater Treatment Facilities Using EPA's Energy STAR Portfolio Manager

March 19, 3:00-5:15pm ET: Community Renewable Energy Success Stories: Renewable Energy Parks

March 20, 1:00-2:00pm ET: The Solar Roadmap: Navigating the Evolving Solar Energy Market

March 21, 1:00-2:30pm ET: Climate Change Adaptation for State & Local Governments: Achieving Buy-In for Adaptation

March 22, 12:00-1:00pm ET: Can Solar Financing Be Easier?

For more information, click [HERE](#).

Houston Regional Solar Workshop

April 9, 2013, 8:30-12:30pm

Come join us for a **free** interactive workshop on how to bolster solar energy in the southeast Texas region. The workshop will focus on energy planning to facilitate solar installations; state and local incentives for solar energy; innovative financing options for solar projects and more!

For more information and to register, click [HERE](#).

NARC's MAP-21 Implementation Roundtable

April 19, 2013, Worcester, MA

Click [HERE](#) to register for the roundtable 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!

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