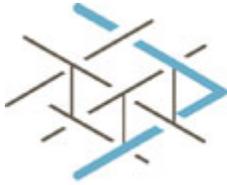


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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XIII, No. 10, March 18, 2013

eRegions

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

The Senate and House are cautiously moving toward resolution for the end of federal funding on March 27, when the Continuing Resolution (CR) ends and funding for the federal government stops. Senators are considering another short term funding measure that would include provisions from Agriculture, Commerce-Justice-Science, and Homeland Security fiscal 2013 spending bills. The House included provisions from spending bills for Defense and Military Construction-Veterans Affairs. Everything else would be funded at 2012 levels.

[PROGRAM UPDATE](#) [POLICY UPDATE](#)
[MEMBER ASSISTANCE REQUEST](#)
[GRANT OPPORTUNITIES](#) [UPCOMING EVENTS](#)

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

NARC's MAP-21 Implementation Meeting: 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 the final roundtable or [HERE](#) for additional information and to access the agenda: **Worcester, MA** - April 19, 2013.

POLICY UPDATE

Congress is in session. Easter recess begins at the end of this week.

Despite hundreds of amendments being introduced in the Senate bill last week, it will be brought up again today for resolution. There is no indication that either Chamber or either party wants a government shutdown.

Best,
Fred

Management Tip: [Want Productive Employees? Treat Them Like Adults](#)
- from the *Harvard Business Review*.

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Executive Director

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Autumn Campbell

Director of Community
Programs

Mia Colson

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. They have a substitute amendment to the House version, which funds most programs at FY12 levels and subject to sequestration, includes full-year Defense and Military/Construction/Veterans Appropriations bills and restores \$7 billion, providing more latitude to shift money among defense programs. The Senate substitute amendment would add three more spending bills — Agriculture, Commerce-Justice-Science and Homeland Security — and provides for some program area funding increases as well as fixes to the House bill, including restoring funding for road, bridge, safety, transit and air services programs at the authorized levels. The current CR expires on March 27. Visit [NARC's federal budget webpage](#) for regular updates.

Budget Resolution Update: The House and Senate introduced their respective FY14 budget resolutions. The House Budget, which is expected to pass by the end of the week, is similar to the FY13 budget and it proposes to erase the deficit in 10 years with a \$4.6 trillion reduction in spending. This includes making cuts deeper than those from sequestration. In contrast, the Senate Budget proposes to cut spending by \$1.8 trillion over 10 years. The Senate will also take up their resolution this week. These resolutions serve as a blueprint (it is not law) for spending by setting overall spending caps for Appropriators. NARC is reviewing both proposals and will post relevant information to the Federal Budget section of the NARC website.

Discussion Draft Climate Bill Released: Reps. Waxman (D-CA) and Blumenauer (D-OR) and Sens. Whitehouse (D-RI) and Schatz (D-HI) issued a [discussion draft](#) of legislation requiring companies that must report their carbon emissions to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to purchase carbon permits. The authors are requesting feedback on how to best implement the fee and how to use the revenue. Additionally, they are looking for specific feedback on the transportation connection. Click [HERE](#) to see the discussion draft. Click [HERE](#) for additional information. NARC is currently reviewing. Please contact [Shannon Baxevanis](#) for comments, ideas or questions.

Workforce Update: House Approves SKILLS Act: In a partisan vote on Friday, the House approved the Supporting Knowledge and Investing in Lifelong Skills "SKILLS" Act, HR 803. The measure would reauthorize federal workforce programs by consolidating most of them into a block

Program Analyst
Valerie Hermanson
Communications
Associate
Lindsey Riley
Deputy of
Communications
Erika Young
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grant program. The chamber also voted on the Democratic Workforce Investment Act (WIA) reauthorization proposal as a substitute amendment. The SKILLS Act, which had little bipartisan support, is unlikely to move in the Senate. However, Senate Committee leaders are working on a compromise measure for possible consideration this summer. NARC will continue to work with industry partners and legislators to support a bipartisan compromise. More information on workforce and NARC's policy statement click **HERE**.

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.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

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 FY13 Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grant

Application Deadline: April 9, 2013

EPA FY13 Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grants provide funding to recruit, train, and place, unemployed and severely under-employed, residents with the skills and certifications needed to secure full-time employment in land remediation and the environmental field at large, including wastewater management, brownfields assessment and cleanup, Superfund cleanup, solid waste management, recycling, emergency response, renewable energy installation, weatherization, chemical safety, and underground storage tank removal, among others. The guidelines are available [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](#).

EDA Make it in America Challenge

Deadline: May 31, 2013

****Opportunity specifically for Regional governments**** As announced by the Administration in 2012, the Make it in America Challenge competition, funded by a collaboration among EDA and other agencies, will partner with state, regional, and local economies to provide infrastructure, strategic planning, capacity building, technical assistance, and workforce skills training necessary to make American communities attractive for business investment. To be eligible for an award, projects must encourage in-sourcing, either through on-shoring of productive activity by U.S. firms, fostering increased foreign direct investment, or incentivizing U.S. companies to keep their businesses and jobs here at home, as well as train local workers to meet the needs of those businesses. For more information go [HERE](#).

UPCOMINGEVENTS

Upcoming Climate & Energy Webinars

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

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! Click [HERE](#) for registration and additional information.

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