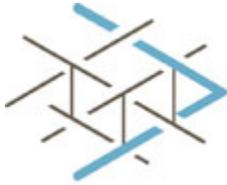


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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XIII, No. 11, March 25, 2013

eRegions

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

The Sequester is slowly being felt in communities across the country. According to a recent *Politico* article, many communities are weighing whether to again cut services or raise taxes. "In Bartlett, Tenn., a town of about 55,000 just northeast of Memphis, Mayor Keith McDonald told *Politico* that he's holding off telling his constituents [that] they won't face a tax increase in the coming year — as he likes to do each winter — because of the sequester sting. 'We're still waiting to see the actual impact to our community,' he said in an

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PROGRAM UPDATE

Regional Solar Workshops Scheduled: Join us for a free interactive workshop on how to bolster solar energy in your region. The workshops focus on energy planning to facilitate solar installations; state and local incentives for solar energy; and, innovative financing options for solar projects. For information and to register, click [HERE](#). Workshops are scheduled for:

- April 9 - Houston, TX: Houston-Galveston Area Council
- April 30 - Memphis, TN: Memphis Bioworks Foundation
- May 20 - Dallas, TX: North Central Texas Council of Governments

interview. The devolution of spending to local governments for federal programs will hurt more over the coming two years if, as proposed, another trillion dollars is cut out of federal spending in the budget.”

As NARC pointed out in [our special report on the federal budget](#), these local programs are not the problem. Increased spending on all infrastructure for example, would create jobs, spur economic activity and raise [our infrastructure report card grade](#).

We will continue to keep you informed as to what is going on and have included this discussion in the agenda for our 47th Annual Conference and Exhibition.

Best,
Fred

Management Article of the Week: [Why Organizations Are So Afraid to Simplify](#), from the *Harvard Business Review*

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

Deadline extended - NARC Urges Regional Planning Organizations to Support MPO Board Flexibility: The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) clarified the federal requirements for the composition of the board of a metropolitan planning organization (MPO) serving as a Transportation Management Area (TMA) and identified public transit operators as one type of official that Congress would like represented on the Boards. In response to concerns expressed by many members of the MPO and transit communities, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) recently launched the National Online Dialogue on Transit Provider Representation in MPOs to gather information that will help inform their process prior to the release of draft policy guidance on this issue. The deadline to submit comments is Friday, March 29, 2013 at 5:00 pm ET.

FEMA's Full-Spectrum Risk Knowledgebase: The Full-Spectrum Risk Knowledgebase is an initiative of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Office of National Capital Region Coordination (NCRC) designed to support federal, state, territorial, tribal, and local government officials and key partners in considering their risks and to enhance risk-informed decision making. The Knowledgebase is a secure reference site that can be used to build all-hazards risk knowledge and provide decision support. Click [HERE](#) for additional information about the Full-Spectrum Risk Knowledgebase.

POLICYUPDATE

Congress is out on Easter recess and will return April 8.

Continuing Resolution Update: Last week Congress avoided government shutdown by approving a continuing resolution (CR) that funds the rest of fiscal year 2013. The measure includes full FY13 appropriations bills for U.S. Department of Defense (DoD), Military-Construction-VA, Agriculture, Commerce-Justice-Science and Homeland Security, and includes sequester flexibility for DoD. Other areas have full

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sequester implementation. Discretionary spending is set at approximately \$984 billion taking into account sequestration (FY12 was \$1.043 trillion). Visit **NARC's federal budget webpage** to access additional information.

Budget Resolution Update: The House and Senate passed their respective FY14 budget resolutions last week. The House Budget 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 the deficit by \$1.8 trillion over 10 years, but includes increased spending for areas like infrastructure. These resolutions serve as a blueprint (it is not law) for spending by setting overall spending caps for Appropriators. Visit **NARC's federal budget webpage** for more specific details.

Senate Committee Passes Water Infrastructure Bill: Last week, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee passed the Water Resources Development Act of 2013 (S 601), which included a five-year pilot program for water infrastructure financing that would provide \$50 million per year for loans and loan guarantees for drinking water and clean water infrastructure projects, as well as Corps of Engineers projects. A project would need to cost a minimum of \$20 million and the federal funding share would be capped at 49 percent. This new program is to supplement, not supplant the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund programs. Click **HERE** for more information on S 601. In the coming days NARC will post more information on this legislation as well as related bills.

EDA Update - House Appropriations Subcommittee Considers EDA Funding: On the heels of moving the continuing resolution through both chambers to provide government funding for the remainder of the fiscal year, last week, the House Appropriations subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science held a hearing to consider 2014 appropriation levels - including funding for the Economic Development Administration (EDA). The subcommittee received testimony from over 40 witnesses on all programs of jurisdiction. Links to testimony and additional information are available **HERE**. NARC will continue to provide resources as the House and Senate funding proposals when they are released in both chambers. Additional information and resources on the federal budget process is available on **NARC's federal budget webpage.**

Ageing Update - May is Older American Month: The Administration on

Aging last week announced the theme for Older Americans Month 2013. The theme for this year's activities is "Unleash the Power of Age". More information on opportunities for involvement will be available soon [HERE](#), and nominations are open for the Administration for Community Living "Unleash the Power of Age" Community Challenge. More information on this competition is available [HERE](#).

NARC Adds its Voice to the Municipal Bond Debate: Supporting local governments across the country, the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) yesterday joined 59 other organizations in urging the U.S. Senate to maintain the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds which local and state governments use to build America's schools, hospitals, roads, bridges, airports, public transit, water systems and other essential public infrastructure. Click [HERE](#) to see the letter. Click the following links to access the [National Association of Counties](#) (NACo) and the [National League of Cities](#) (NLC) municipal bonds action centers for further information.

MEMBER ASSISTANCE REQUEST

Workforce Activities: As the House and Senate consider Workforce Investment Act Reauthorization efforts, NARC will be focusing on workforce development as an important piece of promoting regional economic competitiveness. We would like your input on what workforce development means in your region and how you are leading or partnering on these efforts. Please contact Autumn Campbell at autumn@narc.org or 202-986-1032 x225 with input or information you have regarding your workforce activities and priorities.

Organizational Chart: The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments is requesting a copy of your staff organizational chart. Please send it to both Lindsey Riley (lindsey@narc.org) and Chuck Bean (cbean@mwcoq.org).

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

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

ICMA Webinar: Priority Based Budgeting

April 3, 1:00-2:30 pm ET

Is your "new" budget simply a revised version of your "old" budget? Are your strategies for allocating resources or for implementing cost-cutting measures in line with the priorities of the community and its elected officials? Explore the answers to these questions and more with Jon Johnson, Chris Fabian, and Kathie Novak, in a web conference that will discuss *Priority Based Budgeting*, the latest leading practice to emerge from ICMA's Center for Management Strategies. To register, 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.

Memphis Regional Solar Workshop

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

Come join us for a free interactive workshop on how to bolster solar energy in the mid-south region. The workshop will focus on an overview of solar technology and why it is viable for the Memphis region; revising zoning codes and ordinances to allow for solar; streamlining permitting processes; and innovative financing options for solar projects. For more information and to register, click [HERE](#).

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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