

March 28, 2016 [View this email in your browser](#)



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

eREGIONS

Now Accepting Applications:
NARC
Achievement & Leadership Awards
NARC is excited to announce that submissions for the 2016 NARC Awards are now open.

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

Congress is not in session. House will return April 12 and Senate will return April 4.

Overview

Today the White House hosts the annual White House Easter Egg Roll on the lawn. President Obama's nominee to the Supreme Court will be meeting with Senators this week and when Senate officially returns, they will take up a bill to combat the threat of corporate secrets, which is estimated to cost the U.S. economy more than \$300 billion each year.

The President will speak this week at the National Prescription Drug Abuse and Heroin Summit as a follow up to his request for \$1.1 billion in new funding to combat prescription drug and heroin abuse.

As lawmakers grapple with the FY2017 budget, some Republicans predict that Congress will need to enact a continuing resolution (CR) to avoid a government shutdown rather than adopt individual spending bills. While this would not adhere to the Congressional leaders' pledge to return to "regular order" on spending bills, it is a more realistic outcome considering the recent House objections to following the budget outlines set by Congress last year.

The short Congressional calendar and upcoming elections make the task of reaching consensus more difficult, and a CR is typical in the year of an election. Even though House Speaker Ryan and Senate Majority Leader McConnell have pledged to pass each spending bill individually, House Republicans have not reached agreement on overall spending levels, which is necessary for allocating federal dollars to federal programs. Without that agreement, Congress will need to take

steps to pass a CR before the beginning of the fiscal year, October 1, likely keeping the federal government open through December when they can start the process again.

FCC's Lifeline Program

This week, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will consider a proposal to update the Lifeline program by broadening the low-cost phone service program to include low-cost wireless. After 30 years, FCC notes that broadband has become essential and income remains a significant barrier to broadband adoption. The update would provide a \$9.25 per month subsidy and streamline the process for verifying consumer eligibility.

MEMBER REQUESTS

Please email your responses to anna@narc.org.

Organizational IT Strategic Plan with GIS

The North Central RTPO in Ridgway, PA is looking for sample documents or RFPs for developing an Organizational IT Strategic Plan that includes GIS. North Central is both a Rural Transportation Planning Organization and an Economic Development District. Staff is interested in developing a strategic IT and GIS plan and would like to see what other regional councils have created. Does your organization have any RFPs or Strategic Plans? If so, please share it with us as a best practice.

FEATURED JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Transportation Planning Specialist

Benton-Franklin Council of Governments, Richland, WA

Contract Business Loan Services or Salaried Loan Officer

Benton-Franklin Council of Governments, Richland, WA

Contracts and Procurement Analyst

San Diego Association of Governments, San Diego, CA

RFP: Mountain Accord (Phase II) Transportation Consultant

Wasatch Front Regional Council, Salt Lake City, UT

Transportation Administration Manager

Alamo Area Council of Governments, San Antonio, TX

FUNDING

[View full list of grants!](#)

FY16 Flood Mitigation Assistance

Deadline: June 15

The Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Program makes available federal funds to State, Local and Tribal Governments to implement and sustain cost-effective measures that reduce or eliminate risk of flood damage to buildings insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will fund planning up to \$100,000 per applicant with a maximum of \$50,000 for state plans and \$25,000 for local plans. FEMA will fund technical assistance up to \$50,000 for states who were awarded FMA Grant Program funds totaling at least \$1 million in FY 2015. The remaining FMA funds will be awarded on a competitive basis for projects that will reduce or eliminate claims under the NFIP with a focus on mitigation of severe repetitive loss and repetitive loss properties as well as projects that will reduce the risk profile in communities through mitigation of the largest number of NFIP-insured properties on a neighborhood level.

EVENTS

View full list of events!

NARC Webinar! Learn about USDOT's Final Safety Performance Rule

March 29, 3:00 PM ET

Join NARC for a member webinar outlining the Safety Performance Management Measures final rule – the first of three primary rulemakings regarding performance management and measurement – released recently by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The final rule contains some important changes from the proposed rule and several responsibilities for metropolitan planning organizations. If you haven't seen the new rules, please review the **Safety Performance Management Measures** and the **Highway Safety Improvement Program** final rules. Additionally, FHWA will host a **webinar** on April 1 at 11:30 AM ET to discuss HSIP and Safety PM Final Rule requirements and answer questions.

The Building Blocks of Gross Domestic Product

March 30, 1:00 PM ET

You may already know that the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) measures economic activity, but do you know how the Census Bureau's Economic Indicators and other economic data are used in calculating GDP? Census and the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) will provide you with key information on the BEA and their data products, background and definition of the GDP, and the role of Census Bureau economic data in GDP.

How Communities can Transform Waste Streams through Policies and Programs

April 14, 1:00 - 2:30 PM ET

EPA's new tool, **Managing and Transforming Waste Streams: A Tool for Communities**, enables users to explore 100 policy and program options, including 38 measures addressing organic waste. The tool can lend support to local or regional solid waste plan updates or zero waste plans. It contains over 250 implementation examples from communities across the country, with links to city and county ordinances, contract language, and program websites. Join EPA to learn ways that local governments can move their communities towards higher levels of waste reduction, materials reuse, recycling, and composting across waste generation sectors. Also, hear from the City of Fort Collins, Colorado, a community that is charting a path towards zero waste, having successfully implemented several policies and programs featured in the tool.

NARC Awards! Application Period is Open

Deadline: April 15

NARC is accepting nominations for its 2016 Achievement and Leadership Awards, which will be presented at the Awards Gala Dinner during the 50th Annual Conference and Exhibition, June 26-29, in Salt Lake City, Utah. The awards provide an excellent opportunity for winners to promote their successes to a larger audience, as well as share best practices with their partners and peers. See **[nomination guidelines](#)** for details.

CONTACT US

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