

April 4, 2016 [View this email in your browser](#)



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

eREGIONS



NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

Senate is in session. House returns April 12.

Overview

Senators return to Washington today to continue discussion on the fiscal year 2017 budget. The Senate will vote on a bill **S 1890** to combat corporate trade secrets, estimated to cost the U.S. economy more than \$300 billion each year.

With a shortened legislative calendar, the Senate will move ahead with spending bills rather than wait for a FY2017 joint congressional budget resolution setting overall spending and tax targets. Six Senate subcommittees plan to start work on individual spending bills that follow last year's bipartisan agreement between Congress and President Obama which preserved spending levels for local government programs. House fiscal conservatives object to the agreement and have been pushing for reduced non-defense spending. While the House struggles with the divide over the budget, the Senate will move ahead and may bring appropriations bills to the full Senate before the House can act, a break with the tradition that appropriations bills begin in the House.

NARC priorities for the FY 2017 spending bills include a provision requiring that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers withdraw the new

Waters of the U.S. rule and rewrite it in consultation with state and local governments. NARC also supports continued federal funding for local priorities, including safe drinking water, transportation spending on transit, Amtrak and TIGER grants, Community Development Block Grants, Economic Development Administration funds, aging and community health centers and funding for key public safety and justice programs.

FEMA Releases Damage Assessment Operating Manual

On March 31, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) released the *FEMA Damage Assessment Operating Manual*. The manual establishes national damage assessment standards developed from historic lessons learned and best practices already in use and will increase the accuracy, consistency, and efficiency of damage assessments by empowering emergency management at all levels with clear information and defined roles and responsibilities. The manual was created by FEMA subject matter experts and incorporates the perspectives and experience of local, state, and tribal emergency management, and voluntary agency and private sector partners. FEMA's public comment period and tribal consultation resulted in over 1,700 comments that were then incorporated into the manual.

FEMA Releases Policy on the Implementation of Stafford Act Section 705

On April 1, FEMA issued the final policy, *Stafford Act Section 705, Disaster Grant Closeout Procedures*. This policy provides clarity to FEMA's requirements under Section 705 of the *Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act*, and establishes guidelines to determine whether Section 705 prohibits FEMA from recovering payments made under the Public Assistance program. The new policy applies to all potential recovery of payments made to state, tribal, territorial, or local government recipients and sub-recipients for all Public Assistance funding

Cyber Awareness Call to Action

Help raise awareness of the need for state, local, tribal, territorial law enforcement and homeland security partners to ensure that appropriate agency personnel receive cybercrime training. Share this **U.S. Department of Homeland Security flyer** to help promote training available to law enforcement and homeland security partners.

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!

Director, Housing Assistance Division

Central Texas Council of Governments, Belton, TX

Transportation Planner (Disadvantaged Program Experience a Plus)

Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization, Fort Lauderdale, FL

Local Contact Agency Options Counselor

Triangle J Council of Governments, Durham, NC

Planner II – Housing & Community Development

Triangle J Council of Governments, Durham, NC

Planner II – Energy & Environment

Triangle J Council of Governments, Durham, NC

FUNDING

View full list of grants!

Healthiest Cities & Counties Challenge

Deadline: May 31, 5:00 PM ET

The Healthiest Cities and Counties Challenge aims to improve measurable health outcomes and promote health, wellness, equity and social interaction through practical, evidence-based strategies and cross-sector collaboration. Cities and counties selected to participate in the challenge must have strong cross-sector teams focused on public health issues that reflect community priorities. Participants that demonstrate measurable results are eligible to win up to \$500,000.

EVENTS

View full list of events!

Would you like to Host and International Fellow?

Would you like to host an international fellow as part of an ICMA exchange program, funded by the U.S. Department of State, for a four week program on governance or environmental sustainability? ICMA has a few spots left for a group of professionals from Southeast Asia. The program begins with a four-week stay in the host community beginning April 30-May 28. Travel, accommodations, and stipend for meals and incidentals for the fellows are covered by the program. Your responsibility includes an in-kind, cost-share contributions of labor and direct expenses such as local transportation and office space. For details, see icma.org/hostapps.

The Smartest Places on Earth: Why Rustbelts are the Emerging Hotspots of Global Innovation

April 6, 9:30 – 11:00 AM ET

The conventional wisdom in manufacturing has long held that the key to maintaining a competitive edge lies in making things as cheaply as possible, which saw production outsourced to the developing world in pursuit of ever-lower costs. In contradiction to that prevailing wisdom, authors Antoine van Agtmael, a Brookings trustee, and Fred Bakker crisscrossed the globe and found that the economic tide is beginning to shift from its obsession with cheap goods to the production of smart ones. Their new book, *The Smartest Places on Earth*, examines this changing dynamic and the transformation of “rustbelt” cities, the former industrial centers of the U.S. and Europe, into a “brainbelt” of design and innovation. Centennial Scholar Bruce Katz and the Metropolitan Policy Program will discuss how these emerging hotspots are seizing the initiative and recovering their economic strength. RSVP at the link above.

Federal Research Action Plan on the Use of Recycled Tire Crumbs on Playing Fields

April 12, 9:00 – 10:00 AM ET

On February 12, the EPA, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), and U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) launched a multi-agency action plan to study key environmental human health questions. This coordinated ***Federal Research Action Plan on Recycled Tire Crumb Used on Playing Fields and Playgrounds*** includes outreach to key stakeholders and seeks to: fill important data and knowledge gaps, characterize constituents of recycled tire crumb, and identify ways in which people may be exposed to tire crumb based on their activities on the fields.

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.

Ten Years of the Roberts Court for State and Local Government

May 11, 1:00 PM ET

In cases big and small, involving issues ranging from race to religion, federalism to free speech, Roberts Court decisions have affected states and local governments. Join Tom Goldstein of SCOTUSblog and Goldstein & Russell, Adam Liptak of *The New York Times*, and David Savage of the *Los Angeles Times* in a discussion about the significant impacts of Roberts Court decisions on states and local governments over the last ten years.

CONTACT US

Copyright © 2016 National Association of Regional Councils, All rights reserved.

We are sending you this e-mail because you requested to receive electronic newsletters from the National Association of Regional Councils.

National Association of Regional Councils 777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 305 Washington, DC 20002 USA
[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)