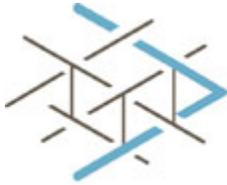


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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XIII, No. 13, April 8, 2013

**eRegions**

## EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

I am excited about this year's Annual Conference in Philadelphia. Given the state of funding at all levels of government, I'm particularly pleased with our theme of *Regional Prosperity*. Every session will have discussion on how regions can and are growing their economies, stabilizing budgets and creating prosperous communities. We will have great speakers presenting on everything from art in our communities to public safety - all aimed at creating innovative and resilient regions. Please register and join us in Philadelphia.

[PROGRAM UPDATE](#) [POLICY UPDATE](#)

[MEMBER UPDATE](#)

[MEMBER ASSISTANCE REQUEST](#)

[GRANT OPPORTUNITIES](#) [UPCOMING EVENTS](#)



**2013 National Award Nominations Due May 17th:** NARC is accepting nominations for its 2013 Achievement and Leadership Awards. Three Achievement and five Leadership Awards will be presented during the 47th Annual Conference and Exhibition, June 23 - 26, 2013 in Philadelphia, PA. Click [HERE](#) for additional details.

## 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:

It can cost \$3.8 million to send a kid to jail; a community can gain \$1 million in benefits by investing in that same child. Workforce training can save lives and offer a great cost/benefit to our communities. NARC met with the National Juvenile Justice Network (NJJN), whose mission is to support and promote the reform of America's critically flawed juvenile justice system. NJJN has released several flyers with information about the cost/benefit of supporting job development and workforce training at a young age. Click [HERE](#) to access the posters and additional information about NJJN.

This week I'm in Houston with Mia Colson and Valerie Hermanson for NARC's Solar Workshop, hosted by the Houston-Galveston Area Council. Thank you to Jack Steele and his team for their support in what I know will be a successful event tomorrow, April 9th.

Best,  
Fred

[2013 Election Information](#)

[General Achievement](#)

- 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

**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.

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## POLICYUPDATE

*The Senate is back in session today and the House returns tomorrow.*

**President to Release FY14 Budget:** President Obama will release is FY14 budget request on Wednesday, April 10. It is expected to be similar to the Senate-passed FY14 budget resolution. It is said to include \$1.8 trillion in deficit reduction over ten years and shrinking the deficit by 2023 by eliminating some tax deductions and cutting entitlements. Click [HERE](#) to read the president's weekly address from last week that highlights some of the details.

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## MEMBERUPDATE

**FRCA Adopts Code of Ethics and Best Practices:** In March 2013, the Executive Directors Advisory Committee of the Florida Regional Councils Association adopted their Code of Ethics and Best Practices. The Advisory Committee adapted their Code from work in Missouri, Kentucky and the International City/County Management Association. Click [HERE](#) to access a copy of the Code.

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## MEMBERASSISTANCEREQUEST

**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

**and Leadership Awards Information**

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Communications

**Erika Young**  
Transportation Director

To access past issues  
of *eRegions*, **visit our  
website.**

Make NARC your

development means in your region and how you are leading or partnering on these efforts. Please contact Autumn Campbell at [autumn@narc.org](mailto:autumn@narc.org) or 202-986-1032 x225 with input or information you have regarding your workforce activities and priorities.

**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](mailto:mia@narc.org) with any response.

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## GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

### **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

homepage —  
[click here to learn how.](#)

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](#).

#### **National Institute on Food and Agriculture**

*Application Deadline: April 29*

The Women and Minorities in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Fields Program (WAMS) program supports research and extension projects that have robust collaborations to increase the participation of women and underrepresented minorities from rural areas in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields that are relevant to USDA priorities including: promoting a safe, sufficient, and nutritious national and international food supply; fostering sustainable agricultural policies that provide small business opportunities and encourage conservation strategies; building a modern workplace with a modern workforce; supporting 21st century rural communities. More information about this opportunity is available [HERE](#).

#### **EDA Make it in America Challenge**

*Deadline: May 31, 2013*

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](#).

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## UPCOMINGEVENTS

### ***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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