



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

House and Senate are in session.

Overview

The House will meet this week on legislation to: add the Zika virus to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's priority review voucher program (**H.R. 2512**), prohibit the Federal Communications Commission from regulating broadband rates (**H.R. 2666**), and secure the Southwest border (**H.R. 4482**).

The Senate will resume consideration of the Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization bill (**H.R. 636**).

Senate Sets OAA Funding Levels for the Next Three Years

The Senate approved the House-passed version of **S. 192** last Thursday, reauthorizing the *Older Americans Act* (OAA) for the first time since 2006. S. 192 extends OAA programs until 2018 and guarantees that funding for state and local aging programs will not be reduced by more than one percent in a single year. The bill is now awaiting the President's signature.

The Senate passed the reauthorization unanimously on July 16, 2015 and the House passed a similar version on March 21, 2016. Last week, the Senate agreed to the House amendment and passed the bill by voice vote. Concerns over the formula for allocating funds among states was one reason for the delay in acting on the bill.

The bill supports senior programs and aims to keep seniors in their homes as long as possible. The

OAA funds caretaking, nutritional, and health services for older Americans, in addition to ombudsman programs to protect seniors from abuse or negligence within these services. The program requires an area agency on aging plan to: (1) support modernization of multipurpose senior centers, including a plan to use the skills and services of older individuals in paid and unpaid work, and (2) increase public awareness of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and remove barriers to education, prevention, investigation, and treatment.

The next challenge will be to increase funding for the program as Congress struggles with funding legislation.

The Federal Role in Keeping Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Affordable

In a Senate Committee on Environmental and Public Works hearing last week, six experts testified on the importance of federal funding for water and wastewater infrastructure. All of the panelists referenced the Flint, Michigan crisis as an example of why this issue is so important across the country. They discussed how low-income families are disproportionately affected by rising water costs and solutions for supporting and improving infrastructure. Mayor David Berger of Lima, Ohio also spoke specifically about the financial burden for cities and local governments without federal support and the inability to meet mandates.

Drinking Water Safety and Infrastructure Act

A bipartisan group of Senators introduced the *Drinking Water Safety and Infrastructure Act (S. 2579)* to call for increased investment in clean water infrastructure. Senators Stabenow (D-MI), Inhofe (R-OK), Peters (D-MI), Portman (R-OH), Brown (D - OH), Kirk (R - IL), Durbin (D-IL), Burr (R-NC), Reed (D-RI), Boxer (D-CA), Mikulski (D-MD), Capito (R-WV), and Baldwin (D-WI) joined together to combine increased funding, federal oversight, and debt forgiveness of drinking water revolving loan funds to ensure that communities have clean water. The bill provides oversight over lead poisoning programs and grants for mitigating environmental health and safety issues such as lead, mold, carbon monoxide, and radon. The bill would use a combination of funds from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, WIFIA loans, and national programs (such as childhood lead poisoning provision programs for Flint) to fund it. Currently, the Senate put a hold on this bill due to the cost, so it is unclear when the Senate will be able to work on the legislation.

FAA Reauthorization

The Senate is back in session this week and has started work on the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reauthorization bill. Similar to the process to pass the FAST Act, the Senate voted to take up a tax-related House-passed measure (**H.R. 636**) to use as the “shell” for the Senate FAA bill. Last week, Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Chairman John Thune (R-SD) formally offered an amendment to strike the text of the House bill and replace it with the committee’s FAA bill. Senators have filed 58 amendments as of last night and Chairman Thune also brought up two amendments on aviation security and drone operators.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

National City-County Opioid Epidemic Task Force

NARC Immediate Past President Judge Gary Moore of Boone County, Kentucky was in Washington last week for the first meeting of the National City-County Task Force on the Opioid Epidemic. The panel was formed in response to the exponential growth in prescription drug abuse and heroin overdoses in communities nationwide. The task force is a joint effort of the National Association of Counties and National League of Cities that will strengthen collaborative efforts to stem the drug epidemic. The task force agreed to the following steps to continue the dialogue:

- Continue national dialogues where city and county leaders will explore the main impacts of this crisis and comprehensive responses proven to be effective;
- Convene special forums, webinars, and other opportunities to engage with national experts, federal, state, and other partners; and
- Publish a national summary report with policy recommendations and best practices that promote prevention and education, effective treatment options, public safety, and community wellness.

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!

Executive Director

Florida Transportation Commission, Tallahassee, FL

Chief Executive Officer

Champaign County Regional Planning Commission, Urbana, IL

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. Participants 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!

Catalyzing City and Anchor Institution Partnerships

April 12, 12:30 - 3:30 PM

As cities look for ways to support inclusive economic growth, they are increasingly turning to anchor institutions – colleges, universities, hospitals, and medical centers – as partners. Too often, though, these partnerships are narrowly defined and transaction based. This event will discuss strategies for cultivating mutually beneficial, long-term partnerships that promote local prosperity

FEMA Updates on Disaster Recovery Efforts in Louisiana

April 12, 2:00 PM ET - 888.820.9409 / ID 5194882, dial in 5-10 min early

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) invites community leaders to a conference call about Louisiana's recovery process, and the resources available to individuals, families, homeowners, renters, business owners and non-profits. Contact FEMA-IGA@fema.dhs.gov with questions.

America's Savings Challenge: Using Policies, Programs, and Products to Promote Financial Health

April 13, 3:30 - 4:30 ET

Americans overwhelmingly prioritize financial stability over economic mobility. However, recent Pew research suggests that such security is elusive: Even the most well-off households find their finances strained when they experience a financial shock—expenses or lost income they do not anticipate, such as a major car or home repair or a loss of income. Please join Pew's financial security and mobility project for a discussion with leading thinkers on how to promote financial health for American households.

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.

NARC Webinar! Partnering for Strong Economies: Regional Councils & Walkable Communities

May 5, 2:00 PM ET

Join NARC and America Walks for a webinar on how federal transportation funding is allocated through regional councils and how to access it for projects that promote walkable communities, including complete streets, safety efforts, and place-making. Attendees will explore two unique perspectives as we hear from a regional planner and an advocate who has worked to use the resources available from their regional council. Q&A to follow.

CONTACT US

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

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

