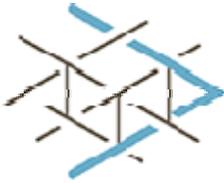


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## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XIII, No. 14, April 15, 2013

# eRegions

### EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

Our thoughts are with the families of those injured and killed in today's Boston marathon explosions, as well as the city and its residents. The Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPA), in Boston, confirms staff is safe and will reach out to their colleagues around the country as needed. We wish the best to all in metropolitan Boston.

Best,  
Fred

**NARC LEADERSHIP**

[PROGRAM UPDATE](#) [POLICY UPDATE](#)  
[PARTNER UPDATE](#)  
[MEMBER ASSISTANCE REQUEST](#)  
[GRANT OPPORTUNITIES](#) [UPCOMING EVENTS](#)



### [2013 Election Information](#)

### [General Achievement and Leadership Awards Information](#)

**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

**President**  
**Hon. David F. Shafer,**  
Clerk/Treasurer,  
Town of Munster, IN

**Chair Sean Dey,**  
Executive Directors  
Council  
Executive Director, West  
Michigan Shoreline  
Regional Development  
Commission

### **NARCSTAFF**

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Programs

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Program Analyst

**Valerie Hermanson**  
Communications  
Associate

**Lindsey Riley**  
Deputy of  
Communications

**Erika Young**  
Transportation Director

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projects. For information and to register, click **HERE**. Workshops are scheduled for:

- April 30 - Memphis, TN: Memphis Bioworks Foundation
- May 20 - Dallas, TX: North Central Texas Council of Governments
- June 10 - Oklahoma City, OK: Association of Central Oklahoma 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**

*Congress is in session.*

**FY14 Budget Update:** Click **HERE** to access a PowerPoint created by NARC that provides information on the FY14 House and Senate-passed budget resolutions, as well as the FY14 President's budget request that was sent to Congress on April 10. The details provided are those most critical to local governments and regions. Contact Shannon Baxevanis at **shannon@narc.org** or x217 for any questions or for further information.

**FY14 Appropriations Update:** The FY14 appropriations process has begun and many efforts are underway to determine core funding for programs important to local governments and regions. It is a crucial time to be voicing priorities to members of Congress, particularly those on the **House** and **Senate** appropriations committees, about what programs need sustained funding and how they positively impact your region/community. Sequestration, if continued as planned, will occur in 2014 but the cuts will be determined by the appropriations committees. If you need talking points, assistance or have questions, please contact Shannon Baxevanis at **shannon@narc.org** or x217.

**Farm Bill Update: *Urge Delegation to Sign Bipartisan “Dear Colleague” Letter Supporting Rural Development Funding in FY14***

**Appropriations:** House Congressional Rural Caucus Co-Chairs Reps. Adrian Smith (R-NE) and Mike McIntyre (D-NC) are circulating a bipartisan “Dear Colleague” letter to House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee leaders requesting support for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development funding in the FY2014 Appropriations process. NARC is working with the National Association of Counties (NACo) and other industry partners to encourage local officials to urge your Representative to sign on to the letter. A copy of the letter is available [HERE](#). The deadline for signing on to it is tomorrow, Tuesday, April 16. In the Senate, Agriculture Committee leaders are also expected to begin discussing Farm Bill reauthorization efforts within the month. NARC will continue to work with congressional leaders and industry partners on this effort.

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## **PARTNERUPDATE**

**Efficient Rooftop Solar Permitting Report:** The Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) recently released a report discussing rooftop solar permitting challenges. This report provides realistic and effective ways a community can improve solar permitting while ensuring safe solar installations. To read the report, click [HERE](#).

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## **MEMBERASSISTANCEREQUEST**

**HUD Sustainable Communities Initiative Grantees project evaluation and implementation information needed:** NARC is asking for member input on Sustainable Communities Initiative program evaluation strategies and performance indicators as well as and local implementation and post-grant follow-up efforts are underway. The NARC team is seeking to compile information on grantee activities and best practices to share. Additionally, there will be a working group session for grantees at NARC’s Annual Conference in Philadelphia in June. Please send information you have to Autumn Campbell at [autumn@narc.org](mailto:autumn@narc.org).

**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](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

### **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

### ***Spotlight on Sustainability Leadership Webinar: Falcon Heights, MN***

**April 16, 2013, 2:00-2:30pm**

Join the National League of Cities to learn how cities across the country play a critical role in advancing solar, economic and environmental sustainability. This webinar will focus on the unique perspectives and insight into opportunities afforded to smaller communities to meet their sustainability goals. To register, click [HERE](#).

### ***FTA Budget and Capital Investment Webinar***

**April 16, from 12:30-2:00 pm ET**

FTA has published its FY2014 budget estimates and New Starts Annual Report, available by clicking [HERE](#). Please join the Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) Administrator Peter Rogoff and Deputy Administrator Therese McMillan for a public webcast to highlight FTA's priorities in the President's FY 2014 budget and discuss the Annual Report on Funding Recommendations for FTA's Capital Investment Grant Program (New Starts/Small Starts). No RSVP necessary. To join the webinar, please click [HERE](#).

### ***MAP-21 Implementation Roundtable***

**April 19, 2013, Worcester, MA**

Click [HERE](#) to register for the roundtable or [HERE](#) for additional information.

### ***REMI Webinar: Regional Economic Competitiveness***

**April 23, 2013 or April 25, 2013 at 2:00 pm ET**

Now more than ever regions face strong economic headwinds from the nation's capital, internal demography and technological innovation. To compete in the 21st century, regions must be intimately aware of their

economic trajectories and their relation to other regions. By assessing internal industrial clustering patterns, demographic shifts, labor market dynamics and other economic indicators, regions will be better equipped to plan for a robust future. Join REMI to see how you can leverage data and forecasts to gain better insight into your region's current and future economic position in the nation. Click [HERE](#) to register for the webinar on the 23rd and [HERE](#) for the webinar on the 25th. There is no charge to participate.

***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](#).

***Spotlight on Sustainability Leadership Webinar: Seattle, WA***

**April 30, 2013, 2:00-2:30pm**

Join the National League of Cities to learn how cities across the country play a critical role in advancing solar, economic and environmental sustainability. This webinar will focus on Seattle's green building policies and programs as well as its resource and conservation management plan. To register, click [HERE](#).

***EPA Stormwater Rulemaking Webinar***

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

The EPA has announced its intention to significantly update portions of its municipal stormwater regulations, and will be publishing a proposed rule in June 2013. This webinar will focus on the core components under consideration by the EPA and anticipate some of the effects these regulatory changes may have for local governments. To register, click [HERE](#).

***Attracting Funds for Climate Adaptation Webinar***

**May 1, 2013, 1:00-2:30pm ET**

This webinar will focus on how to secure funding for adaptation. The presentations will provide examples of how communities of various sizes have attracted funding and provide available resources for participants to identify appropriate funds. 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.

***Dallas Regional Solar Workshop***

**May 20, 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 Dallas 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](#).

***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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