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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XIII, No. 15, April 22, 2013

eRegions

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

Our thoughts and prayers are with those affected by the explosions in Waco and the flooding in the Midwest.

This week I'm in Oregon for the Washington/Oregon Council of Governments Directors' Retreat. It's been a great discussion; I thank them for their invitation for NARC's participation.

We've confirmed more speakers and sessions for the 47th Annual Conference in Philadelphia. Please take a look at the agenda and register. We know you will find this a great event,

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[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

as we engage with partners from around the country on enhancing regional competitiveness.

We are off to a great start with our Sunshot Solar Workshops. Houston attendance was fantastic and the team is now off to Memphis, San Diego and Dallas among others locations. We also just wrapped up our MAP-21 implementation roundtables this past week. Over 200 MPOs, COGs, and RPOs attended this series of workshops around the country to discuss MAP-21 implementation. We're now working on putting together a summary report with what we learned in the field.

Finally, take a look at our new Federal Budget and policy information [HERE](#). Please use this information with your boards, staff and partners as appropriations discussions continue on Capitol Hill.

Best,
Fred

NARCLEADERSHIP

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
- May 23 - Blacksburg, VA
- June 10 - Oklahoma City, OK: Association of Central Oklahoma Governments

TIGER Grants Announced: Today, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) announced the availability of \$473.8 million in funds to be awarded for National Infrastructure Investments (TIGER Funds). These funds will be awarded on a competitive basis for projects that will have a significant impact on the Nation, a metropolitan area, or a region. Click [HERE](#) to access the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for more information about project eligibilities, application requirements and other important information.

FEMA Calls for Preparedness Awards: The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) opened the application period for the 2013 Individual and Community Preparedness Awards, which recognize outstanding individuals, organizations, Citizen Corps Councils and programs working to make our communities safer, stronger and better prepared for any disaster or emergency event. Submissions must be sent in by June 5, 2013. Winners will be announced in Fall 2013. Click [HERE](#) for more information and submission instructions.

POLICYUPDATE

Congress is in session.

FY14 Appropriations Update: The Appropriations Committees are conducting budget hearings this week, most of which will focus on the president's FY14 request and will provide insight on what proposals may be included in the appropriations bills. Appropriators are not expected to write any spending bills before mid-May. Visit NARC's [Federal Budget webpage](#) for continued updates, as well as a PowerPoint presentation that details the FY14 budget activities and proposals. 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

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

Chair Sean Dey,
Executive Directors
Council
Executive Director, West
Michigan Shoreline
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Communications

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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 - House and Senate Committees Prep for Farm Bill

Mark-Ups: Leaders on both the House and Senate Agriculture Committees have committed to consider five-year Farm Bill reauthorization in the near-term, but neither Chamber has yet released a draft proposal. The House Committee has set a mark-up for May 15, and the Senate is expected to follow suit after next week's recess. Committee Chairs have expressed optimism that a compromise will be easier to come by than during last Congress, but nutrition policy and crop subsidies could again prove contentious partisan sticking points. NARC is working with industry partners and staff in both Chambers to promote robust rural development program support and will provide additional information and member resources as each Chamber moves forward.

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](#).

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.

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 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 with any response.

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, 2013

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](#).

HUD's FY 2013 Sustainable Communities Research Grant Program

Application Deadline: May 29, 2013

The program is offering a total of \$500,000 for cutting edge research in affordable housing development and preservation; transportation and infrastructure planning; and “green” energy-efficient practices.

Applications for grants in the amount of \$75,000 to \$125. For more information, see [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](#).

U.S. DOT TIGER Grants

Applications Due: June 3, 2013.

The U.S. Department of Transportation announced the availability of \$473.8 million in funds to be awarded for National Infrastructure Investments (TIGER Funds). These funds will be awarded on a competitive basis for projects that will have a significant impact on the Nation, a metropolitan area, or a region. Click [HERE](#) to access the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for more information about project eligibilities, application requirements and other important information.

USDA's Intermediary Relending Program

Deadline: June 28, 2013

The USDA announced funding available to non-profit and public agencies serving as intermediaries to provide support to rural businesses and community development groups. Funding is available through the USDA's Intermediary Relending Program that provides loans to economic development organizations, which in-turn support rural businesses that might not otherwise be able to secure financing. More information about the program is available [HERE](#) and the Federal Register notice is available [HERE](#).

2014 National Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grant Program

Application Deadline: July 15, 2013

Proposals are now being accepted for this annual program. Please see [HERE](#) for more information.

UPCOMINGEVENTS

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.

NLC Webinar: Predictive Data Analytics: How Cities Can Get Ahead of the Curve and Improve Performance

April 25, 2:00-3:00 p.m. ET

Across the range of core municipal services – safety, inspections, health, and others – most public leaders are facing increasing demands and decreasing revenues. But through innovative uses of technology to collect and analyze new sources of information, city leaders are dissolving the hierarchical barriers that often exist within the public sector to begin solving this problem. Recent advances in data analytics allow cities to discover trends and address problems before they fully develop, thus reducing costs, improving outcomes, and enhancing customer satisfaction. This webinar will provide a broad and engaging overview of the field's development from Stephen Goldsmith, with examples drawn from cities across the country. City leaders from communities like Louisville will describe the challenges – and opportunities – associated with these new strategies. The presentation will close with a half-hour panel discussion on how cities of all sizes can discover, replicate and scale predictive analytics initiatives at home. To register, click [HERE](#).

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](#).

ICMA Webinar: Economic Development: Branding Your Community

May 2, 1:00-2:30 p.m. ET

Does your community have a brand? Is your image attractive to business? Learn how to create your own narrative and develop a solid brand in this ICMA webinar with the city of Dubuque, Iowa, and HR Green, an ICMA Strategic Partner. Gain practical insight into branding techniques and hear how Dubuque used creative branding to attract businesses and become an international model for sustainable development. 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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