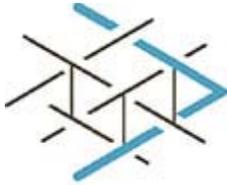


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## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XIII, No. 16, April 29, 2013

# eRegions

### EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

This week, NARC Staff, Mia Colson and Valerie Hermanson, are in Memphis for our solar workshop, and Autumn Campbell is in Minneapolis, presenting on economic development research we've recently completed for the McKnight Foundation and the Metropolitan Council. More details about this report will be released soon.

Meanwhile, we continue to confirm expert speakers, including Alan Greenberger, Deputy Mayor of Philadelphia, who will speak on casinos in our host region; Bill

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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

**NARC Reschedules Call With U.S. DOT on TIGER Solicitation:** On **Tuesday, April 30, 2013, from 3:00-4:00pm ET**, NARC will host the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to discuss the fourth round of National Infrastructure Investments (TIGER Funds). U.S. DOT will be awarding \$473.8 million through this solicitation and this will be your opportunity to hear from and speak directly with U.S. DOT, and answer

Goetz, Resident Vice President for CSX Transportation, who will discuss freight and regional economy; Dr. Catherine Ross, Georgia Technology, who with the Atlanta Regional Commission will discuss Atlanta's work on health impact assessments; and many others. Register today, join us and be part of the conversation about *Creating Competitive and Prosperous Regions*.

Best,  
Fred

## NARCLEADERSHIP

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**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

### **Fred Abousleman**

Executive Director

### **Shannon Baxevanis**

Deputy Director

### **Autumn Campbell**

Director of Community

any questions about your projects. Participate by registering [HERE](#). Click [HERE](#) to review the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) prior to the call.

**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:

- 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

**EDA Request for Comments; Deadline May 15th:** The Economic Development Administration (EDA) seeks public comment on how to design and structure a loan guarantee for small- and medium-sized manufacturers through its authority under current appropriations act, which designated up to \$5 million for loan guarantee to encourage projects that re-equip, expand, or establish a manufacturing facility in the U.S. and that use innovative technology or processes in manufacturing. The loan guarantees should also be used to encourage production of innovative products, processes, or ideas developed by research funded from the Federal government. EDA requests input on ways to structure this program and the level of agency support necessary to institute a loan guarantee program consistent with the provisions of the Stevenson-Wydler Act. More information is available [HERE](#).

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## POLICYUPDATE

*Congress is out of session.*

### **Farm Bill Update - House Reauthorization Proposal Expected to**

**Increase Cuts over 2012 Measure:** House Agriculture Committee Chairman has release plans to offer a Farm Bill reauthorization proposal that would increase cuts to nutrition, commodity and conservation programs by \$11 billion over 2012 levels. The committee is expected to mark-up a proposal on May 15. In the Senate, Majority Leader Reid has

Programs

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Program Analyst

**Valerie Hermanson**

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Associate

**Lindsey Riley**

Deputy of

Communications

**Erika Young**

Transportation Director

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indicated that Farm Bill Reauthorization is on the docket for floor consideration this summer, but neither chamber has yet released draft legislation, indicating the process may move quickly. Leaders in both chambers have indicated that there is little desire for continued extensions.

### **Regional Food Systems Update - New Bill Proposed Would Shore up Support for Local Food Systems:**

This month members in the House and Senate introduced to boost Federal Farm Bill programs providing support for local and regional farm and food systems. The Local Farms, Food and Job Act of 2013 (HR 1414 and S 679) aims to expand access to healthy foods for consumers, boost income opportunities for farmers and ranchers, improve local and regional infrastructure and markets, and enhance research efforts. Many of the proposals in the current bill were incorporated into the Senate and House Farm Bill reauthorization proposals in 2012. More information on the bill is available **HERE** and the full bill text is available **HERE**.

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## **MEMBER ASSISTANCE REQUEST**

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

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## GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

### **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](#).

### **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response/Division of State and Local Readiness**

*Application deadline: May 30, 2013*

The purpose of this program is to prepare the Nation's public health systems to minimize the consequences associated with all-hazards incidents and events and promote the integration of public health emergency preparedness into overarching emergency preparedness for all-hazards responses. Applicants must demonstrate progress among governmental and nongovernmental components of the public health system aimed at business improvements that lead to business cost efficiencies; improvements in comprehensive education, training and public health awareness efforts; capacity to meet nationally-established strategies; and increased diversity in public health and safety community partnerships. More information 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](#).

#### **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.

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## **UPCOMINGEVENTS**

#### ***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](#).

***Conference Call: Partnership for Sustainable Communities FY14 Budget Briefing***

**May 2, 2013, 12:00-1:00pm ET**

Please join the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) for a discussion of the FY14 Budget as it pertains to key Partnership-related programs. RSVP by Wednesday, May 1st at 12:00 pm ET to [germaine.walker@hud.gov](mailto:germaine.walker@hud.gov). Space is limited so please consider sharing lines, if possible. Call-in Information: 1-800-260-0719; Access Code: 292033#. Click on the agency for the links for each agency's budget proposals: [DOT](#), [EPA](#), [HUD](#).

***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](#).

***ICMA Webinar: How to Plan an Effective Council Meeting***

**June 6, 2013 1:00-2:30 pm ET**

Planning a council meeting is an art. Navigating conflict, maintaining decorum, and getting the job done for the public requires focus and discipline. Join ICMA's Kevin Duggan and Mike Conduff in a practical webinar to help you plan and run council meetings that give your governing body and citizens the forum to make good decisions in an open, fair, and constructive environment. 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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