



### 2018-2019 NARC Elections Update

Please see [NARC's Elections page](#) for new candidate information. You will find this new information in updated lists of seats for both the Board of Directors and the Executive Directors Council. NARC also received a number of intent to run letters for Board seats, which are also housed on the Elections page.

Anyone who still wishes to announce an intent to run may send an email to Anna Rosenbaum via [anna@narc.org](mailto:anna@narc.org). This email should specify the open seat for which the individual is running. NARC will continuously publish the names of additional candidates as we receive them.

## NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

*Congress is in session.*

### Rescissions Week

Numerous reports over the past several weeks indicate that the White House is preparing to propose a list of “rescissions” or cuts to programs currently funded by the *Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018* – the omnibus spending bill that the president signed into law on March 23, 2018. The proposed cuts could also include funds from previous fiscal years that have not yet been obligated, which could yield a proposal that decreases spending by as much as \$15 billion this year. **Today, a report in the *Washington Post*** indicated that 30 programs are likely to be included in the president’s request, including the Children’s Health Insurance Program.

Under the *Impoundment Control Act of 1974*, the president has the authority to propose rescissions. Congress is then obligated to consider the request under a fast-track, no-filibuster rule. In the Senate, the measure only needs a simple majority to pass, rather than the 60 votes generally required to overcome a filibuster.

Once the president has submitted his request to Congress, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees have 25 calendar days to either approve, disapprove, or amend the request. If a committee fails to act, the president's request can be discharged to the full House and Senate where a vote is required.

In total, the Congress must act within 45 calendar days. There are at least two exceptions to this rule, including the end of a session or a recess that lasts more than three days. Once the president has submitted his request he is able to withhold the funds for up to 45 days or until Congress acts. This is the only circumstance under which the president can "impound" funds; otherwise the president is required to spend what Congress has appropriated.

If the budget authority is rescinded and the cuts are made, the rescissions must take effect immediately. If the budget authority is not rescinded, the president must spend the funds and cannot propose rescinding those funds again.

Regions should be concerned if the president submits a request to Congress. The effort to rescind existing funds could damage the very delicate balance struck between Republicans and Democrats and the House and Senate to address the funding needs of defense programs and non-defense discretionary programs, many of which are important to regions, in a balanced way. And all the rescissions the president recommends are likely to come from the non-defense discretionary side of the federal budget, meaning that – if adopted – cities, counties, and regions are likely to experience cuts to programs in the areas of housing, transportation, health, aging, workforce development, energy, and the environment, as well as many social and welfare programs.

NARC will continue to monitor the president's rescissions proposal and provide you with the most up-to-date information in forthcoming issues of *eRegions*.

### **Representative Lou Barletta: Let's Outsmart Disasters Before They Strike**

Representative Lou Barletta (R-PA) urged the Senate last week in his *Washington Examiner* opinion piece to bring his bill, the *Disaster Recover Reform Act*, to the floor for consideration. His bill was recently passed in the House as a part of the *FAA Reauthorization Act* and provides incentives for state and local governments to invest in mitigation activities before disasters strike. "Studies show that pre-disaster mitigation will help the federal government save \$4 to \$8 on the back end for every \$1 spent on the front end," said Barletta. He touts his bill as bipartisan and hopes to pass it in the Senate before the 2018 hurricane season.

### **National 911 Program Releases New 2018 Compilation of NG911 Standards**

As the country continues to advance emergency communications with the implementation of Next Generation 911 (NG911), it is critical for 911 industry stakeholders to have access to a thorough compilation of NG911-related standards. The seventh edition of the *Next Generation 911 Standards Identification and Review* is now available and contains criteria that can serve as the basis to achieve 911 interoperability across multiple jurisdictions. This document provides 911 leaders with access to a robust list of standards to inform decisions for an effective transition to NG911. This document helps explain how standards are developed and accredited, and why they are necessary; bridge the gap between differing standards; and identify where additional work on standards is needed. For quick reference, the 2018 report includes a "what's new" section that highlights changes or updates to standards from the previous year. Stakeholders are encouraged to monitor these standards on a regular basis, as they will assist the community in keeping pace with the ever-changing emergency communications environment.

### **Unemployment by the Numbers**

April's unemployment data brings good news and not-so-good news. The good news is that the unemployment rate dropped to 3.9 percent, a level not seen since 2000. The not-so-good news is the fact that the economy only added 186,000 jobs and wages did not increase in a significant way. So, while employment may be higher, wages remain stagnant. In this scenario, consumers are less likely to increase their spending habits – something that is needed to spur the economy along. Nonetheless, over the past year employment has grown monthly, on average, by 202,000. Much of that growth has occurred in the healthcare sector.

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## **OTHER NEWS**

### **EPA Seeks Nominees for Advisory Council**

On Friday, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a **notice in the Federal Register seeking nominations** to fill vacancies on **EPA's National Drinking Water Advisory Council** (NDWAC). EPA requests nominations of qualified candidates to be considered for a three-year appointment. The 15-member NDWAC was established by the *Safe Drinking Water Act* to provide practical and independent advice, consultation, and recommendations to the EPA's Administrator on the activities, functions, policies, and regulations required by the bill. EPA's notice solicits nominations to fill four vacancies from August 2018 through December 2020, and five vacancies from December 2018 through December 2021. To maintain the representation required by statute, nominees will be selected to represent state and local agencies concerned with water hygiene and public water supply (two vacancies) and the general public (two vacancies). Nominations are due by May 31, 2018.

### **FEMA's National Level Exercise 2018**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has begun its **National Level Exercise (NLE) 2018**, an event that brings together more than 250 federal, state, local, tribal and territorial governments, private industry, and nonprofit organizations to test their emergency response to a simulated major disaster. Through May 11, these organizations are coordinating together and using established plans, policies, and procedures to prepare for and respond to a Mid-Atlantic hurricane scenario near Hampton Roads, Virginia. FEMA Administrator Brock Long said, "NLE 2018 serves as the culminating effort to exercise the nation's response capabilities before the 2018 [hurricane] season." To help your communities prepare as well, please share the following FEMA tips and resources with your residents:

- Download the **FEMA App**.
- Create and test a **Family Communications Plan**.
- **Document and insure your property** to ensure that you will have the necessary financial resources to help you repair, rebuild, or replace whatever is damaged.
- Learn about **purchasing flood insurance**.
- **Strengthen your financial preparedness** by collecting and securing personal financial, insurance, medical, and other records.
- Get trained because you could be the one to **help others until help arrives**.
- Join the **FEMA National Business Emergency Operations Center**.

### **Taking America's Elderly for a Ride**

According to a recent report by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, scammers steal nearly \$37 billion each year from some five million elderly Americans. The impact can be dire, putting many seniors into financial danger. Scammers rely on a variety of techniques. Some falsely claim to have their sweepstakes winnings that can only be received after paying large sums of "taxes and fees." Some scammers are even family members who steal to support gambling or drug habits. These scammers not only take financial resources from seniors, they also take their health. Often, seniors feel emotionally devastated because of the betrayal caused by the scammers, leading to dramatic declines in health that lead to early or unexpected deaths. Unfortunately, federal laws already in place to address this problem are grossly underfunded and many times

families cannot gain control of a senior's funds before the damage is done. The fear among experts is that unless something is done soon, we are likely to see many homeless seniors.

## REGION SPOTLIGHT

### **MVRPC Launches New Safety Campaign**

The Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission (MVRPC) launched a new safety campaign focusing on seat belt use, proper child safety-seat use, and safe cycling guidelines. This new effort is in response to recent, staggering statistics that show that only 83% of Ohio motorists wear a seat belt – the lowest rate in five years. MVRPC is also using this safety campaign to prepare motorists and cyclists for the warmer weather, when cyclists are more likely to share the road with vehicles. MVRPC partnered with the Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority to display campaign ads on their transit vehicles. Residents will also see ads on poster and digital billboards and the *Dayton Daily News*.

## MEMBERSHIP REQUESTS

### **Best Practices for Evaluating Planning Proposals**

The Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization is creating a program to fund planning studies on behalf of their partner governments. They are seeking input on best practices for evaluating of proposals. Has your organization developed or implemented proposals for evaluating planning through solely objective means? What best practices have you implemented to select planning study proposals that yielded implementable projects? Please send your responses to [anna@narc.org](mailto:anna@narc.org).

### **How Has Federal Investment in Workforce and Education Programs Impacted Your Region?**

NARC is looking for workforce and education programming success stories from our member regions that we can share during our discussions on the Hill. If you have data and/or personal stories that you can share from your region that could support any or all of the following topics, please send them to [maci.morin@narc.org](mailto:maci.morin@narc.org):

- Negative impact of cuts due to insufficient federal investment;
- Return on Investment for program(s) despite cuts in funding; and/or
- Systemic partnerships available because of the *Workforce Investment Opportunity Act* (WIOA) infrastructure that have led to improved training and employment outcomes, and better met the need of employers in the state.

## FEATURED JOBS

*View full list of jobs!*

### **Transportation Planner**

Calaveras Council of Governments, San Andreas, CA

### **Planner**

Atlanta Regional Commission, Atlanta, GA

### **Assistant or Associate Planner**

San Joaquin Council of Governments, Stockton, CA

### **CEO**

Eastern Maine Development Corporation, Bangor, ME

### **Transportation Planning Director**

Northern Arizona Council of Governments, Flagstaff, AZ

### **Executive Director**

Lake-Sumter County Metropolitan Planning Organization, Leesburg, FL

## FUNDING

*[View full list of grants!](#)*

### **The Rockefeller Foundation and Chan Zuckerberg Initiative Communities Thrive Challenge**

Register by June 12; Applications Due June 19

The Rockefeller Foundation and the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative have partnered up to create the Communities Thrive Challenge – a funding opportunity open to organizations working to expand economic opportunity for low-income and financially insecure people and communities. They are looking for nonprofit programs, businesses, organizing or advocacy models, technologies, economic development strategies, or other approaches that deliver significant and consistent results in any of the following areas: better work, skills development and opportunity matching, financial security, and economically vibrant communities. As many as ten organizations will receive a \$1 million grant, as well as best-in-class technical assistance and an opportunity to share their stories on a national stage.

### **AmerisourceBergen Foundation Opioid Resource Grant Program**

Applications Due: July 31

The AmerisourceBergen Foundation announced the broadening of its current efforts toward curbing opioid abuse through its new grant program. The Opioid Resource Grant Program supports and advances ideas from innovative non-profit organizations to redefine best practices across the country in the fight against the opioid epidemic. Funding from the program will be allocated to organizations committed to pioneering new ideas, and priority will be given to proposals that address the safe disposal of opioids and education around prevention. The size of grant disbursements will depend on the needs of each grantee, up to \$100,000 per grant.

## **EVENTS**

*[View full list of events!](#)*

### **Advancing 911 Through National Initiatives, Training, & Grants**

May 8, 12:00-1:00 PM ET

Numerous federal efforts are underway to advance 911 throughout the country, from developing new resources and professional development to grants. Join this webinar for the latest updates on:

- Federal projects underway to advance 911 emergency communications,
- The status of the Next Generation 911 Cost Estimate, and
- The status of the 911 Grant Program.

In addition, learn how a training program in Tennessee became the catalyst for increased professionalism, customer service, and commitment. More than 10,000 contact hours of training significantly impacted the major roles in the 911 Center, which was made possible through funding by the Tennessee Emergency Communications Board (TECB).

### **Conversations with Grantmakers in Aging – Experienced Helping Hands: Engaging Older Volunteers to Serve Children and Youth**

May 9, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

As our society ages and older adults face social isolation and related health issues, we can enlist these “experienced helping hands” to engage in their communities. The benefits are exponential when the talents of these older adults are leveraged in service to the younger population. Older adults have a lifetime of experience and skills to share with children. And as they engage in their communities, they report improvements in overall health. During this webinar, you will learn about the key findings from an Eisner Foundation survey of nonprofit organizations about older volunteers. You will also hear techniques that Encore.org partners and others are implementing to best engage older volunteers.

### **Putting P3s to Work in the United States**

May 16, 10:00-11:30 AM ET

Public-private partnerships (P3s) can bring private sector innovation, expertise, and capital to projects, helping communities across the U.S. modernize their transportation, water, and other infrastructure systems. Yet the U.S. continues to lag its international peers in using P3s and has an estimated \$2 trillion in unmet infrastructure needs. Join the Bipartisan Policy Center as they hear from both American and international experts on how to capitalize on private sector interest in

U.S. infrastructure, foster increased investment, and protect the public interest. The event will be webcast on the event page.

### **Best Practices for State & Local Government Disaster Recovery Planning**

May 24, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

The U.S. Department of Justice estimates more than 4,000 ransomware attacks have occurred every day since the beginning of 2016, and government is a prime target. Given such risks, a robust disaster recovery and data protection plan is critical for any state or local government organization. Join *Government Technology* and the Center for Digital Government as they discuss best practices for data backup and recovery. They will explore:

- How government agencies can meet growing employee and citizen expectations for access to online services while ensuring data is well-protected.
- How to maintain control, visibility and access to data.
- How to confirm strong data recovery capabilities are in place should the unexpected occur.
- How the city of Sarasota, Florida fought back after a virus encrypted 160,000 files and cyber criminals demanded \$33 million in Bitcoin as ransom.

## **CONTACT US**

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