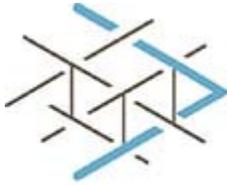


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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XIII, No. 18, May 13, 2013

**eRegions**

## EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

According to *Politico* there are already more than a dozen pieces of stand-alone legislation introduced to address agencies, programs and accounts hit by sequestration. For example, Rep. Jim McDermott (D-Wash.) would exempt the NIH; the New York delegation is trying to protect Sept. 11 health and compensation programs; Rep. Steven Palazzo (R-Miss.) wants to prevent furloughs for members of the National Guard who work full time as uniformed civilians maintaining equipment; Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Calif.) hopes to save the

[PROGRAM UPDATE](#) [POLICY UPDATE](#)

[REGIONS360](#)

[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

**Solar Education & Outreach:** As part of the U.S. Department of Energy's [SunShot Solar Outreach Partnership](#) (SolarOPs), NARC is seeking information on regional planning organization's knowledge of solar energy. NARC is developing a toolkit aimed to assist regional councils and their stakeholders to better understand solar photovoltaics

TIGER transportation grant program; and Majority Leader Reid had attempted a sequester replacement, but failed to get the votes necessary for passage. As communities are hit harder by sequester, every special interest group will attempt to get an exemption. Exemptions will have to be offset by other budget savings, which make it difficult for programs that do not have powerful or large interest groups behind them.

On to Philadelphia! NARC Elections! History! Baseball! Colleagues! Sign-up for what will be an exciting event. Join hundreds of our regional colleagues to learn, share and enjoy what Philadelphia has to offer!

Best,  
Fred

## **NARCLEADERSHIP**

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

**Chair Sean Dey,**  
Executive Directors

(PV). Please take 5 minutes to complete this brief survey to help NARC develop the solar toolkit. Please click [HERE](#) to access the survey.

**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:

- May 20 - Dallas, TX: North Central Texas Council of Governments
- May 23 - Blacksburg, VA
- June 10 - Oklahoma City, OK: Association of Central Oklahoma Governments

**FEMA Releases National Planning Frameworks:** Last week the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) released three of the five National Planning Frameworks directed in Presidential Policy Directive 8: National Preparedness. These National Planning Frameworks document the roles and responsibilities of the whole community in all facets of national preparedness and illustrate how we work together to support one another before, during, and after an emergency. Click [HERE](#) to download the National Planning Frameworks and view the tutorial.

**NLC Report Demonstrates Broadband's Important to Cities Nation Wide:** A [new report](#) from the National League of Cities (NLC) examines the economic benefits associated with broadband adoption and cites best practices around the country. Additionally, the National Telecommunications Information Administration recently released a Broadband Adoption toolkit that draws on the experiences of grantees participating in the Broadband Technology Opportunity Program. NLC is also hosting an [upcoming webinar](#) on May 20 examining Lessons Learned from the BTOP and [another webinar](#) on June 13 looking at Local Broadband Initiatives. NARC will host a session during its 2013 Annual Conference highlighting broadband as an important component to regional economic competitiveness.

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## **POLICYUPDATE**

*Congress is in session.*

Council  
Executive Director, West  
Michigan Shoreline  
Regional Development  
Commission

### **NARCSTAFF**

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Communications

#### **Erika Young**

Transportation Director

To access past issues  
of *eRegions*, [visit our  
website.](#)

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**Appropriations Update:** The House Appropriations Committee continues to move forward with FY14 appropriations efforts. The FY14 Homeland Security appropriations bill is set for mark up by its House subcommittee on Thursday. The Senate Appropriations Committee resumes its agency hearings on the President's FY14 budget request.

**Debt Ceiling Update:** According to U.S. Treasury Secretary Lew, the federal debt ceiling deadline of May 19 has been pushed back until early Fall due to a one-time payment of \$59.4 billion from Fannie Mae. This relieves the immediate pressure for Congress to act. However, Congress will have to decide to raise or waive the debt ceiling or risk a default on outstanding obligations.

**Water Resources Bill Under Consideration in Senate:** This week, the Senate continues consideration of S 601, the Water Resources Development Act, which would authorize 18 new U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) flood protection, navigation and ecosystem restoration projects while instituting a number of reforms to the process. Congress has not passed a WRDA bill in five years. The bill includes the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA), a five-year pilot program to provide additional water infrastructure financing opportunities for local governments.

**Farm Bill Considered in Committees This Week:** Both the House and Senate Agriculture Committees will consider respective versions of the 2013 Farm Bill reauthorization this week. The draft bills, which were released late last week, are similar to proposals advanced in 2012. The House bill, The Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management (FARRM) Act of 2013 makes significant additional cuts to supplemental nutritional programs, eliminates direct payments and consolidates a number of conservation programs for a total savings of nearly \$40 billion. In the Senate, The Agriculture Reform, Food and Jobs Act of 2013 proposes a total of \$23 billion in cuts. Both chambers are expected to pass legislation this summer leaving the major policy differences to be sorted out in conference. The House draft is available [HERE](#) and the Senate version is [HERE](#). NARC will post additional resources on this legislation as it moves through committee in the Senate on Tuesday and in the House on Wednesday.

**Ask Your Representative to Support Municipal Bonds:** NARC is part of a coalition of industry partners working to preserve that the tax exempt

status of municipal bonds as the House and Senate consider tax reform during the coming months. Please contact your House member regarding supporting [H. Res. 112](#), which “celebrates the history of municipal bonds, the 100-year precedent of the Federal tax exemption for municipal bond interest, and the important contribution municipal bonds have made to economic growth and wellbeing in each State and municipality in our great Nation.” This resolution is an important indicator of support for a critical infrastructure financing tool. More information on this issue and coalition activities is available at the U.S. Conference of Mayor’s website, available [HERE](#).

**Framework Announced for Senate Workforce Investment Act**

**Reauthorization Efforts:** Statements from Sens. Patty Murray (D-WA) and Johnny Isakson’s (R-GA) made in a meeting with NLC officials indicate that the framework for the Senate WIA reauthorization bill will likely retain the current state and local governance structures, including a strong role for local elected officials and business leaders. They also supported upholding local workforce development areas based on local labor markets or economic regions rather than political boundaries. The Senators’ offices also indicated there will be an effort to move forward with “smart consolidation,” avoiding consolidating programs simply for the sake of consolidation, and expressed interest basing workforce development funding on national GDP with expenditures increasing during economic downturns when programs are needed most. In March the House passed their reauthorization proposal along primarily party lines. NARC will continue to participate in a collation of industry partners as this proposal moves forward in the Senate. More information WIA reauthorization is available [HERE](#).

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## REGIONS360

**MARC Solar Ready KC Case Study:** Learn about the Kansas City region’s efforts to streamline their permitting and planning processes. The Solar Ready KC initiative is an innovative approach to provide local governments with the information and tools needed to position their communities for a new renewable energy economy. Learn more [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](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.

**Request for Qualifications (RFQ) from Broward MPO:**

The Metropolitan Planning Organization (Broward MPO) is requesting responses from qualified firms to conduct climate change vulnerability analysis that will yield mitigation strategies to incorporate into the region's transportation decision-making processes. The deadline is 5:00 pm, May 16, 2013. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

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## GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

**Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Sustainable Communities**

*Deadline: May 22, 2013*

The third round of funding under the Local Sustainability Matching Fund is available, which seeks to catalyze partnerships between local governments and place-based foundations to advance community sustainability initiatives. Seven sustainability priorities have been identified: climate adaptation/resilience, neighborhood sustainability,

sustainable urban food systems, sustainability performance measurement, sustainable economic development, mobilizing resident/business sustainability actions, and recycling/waste prevention. The Fund will provide investments between \$25,000 and \$75,000, with a 1:1 match required by one or more local foundations. More information is available [HERE](#).

**Department of Housing and Urban Development's Choice Neighborhoods Program**

*Deadline: May 28, 2013*

Funding is available through the Choice Neighborhoods program to support planning efforts to develop comprehensive neighborhood revitalization plans targeting severely distressed neighborhoods and surrounding communities. Plans must focus on achieving housing, social equity and economic investment objectives. More information 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](#).

**EDA Announces Manufacturing Planning Grants Available for Regions**

*Application Deadline: June 13, 2013.*

EDA released application guidelines for the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP) program. This opportunity aims to support regional implementation-ready strategy grants focused on promoting the resurgence of the manufacturing sector and manufacturing jobs in regions across the country. The IMCP is designed to reward communities that demonstrate best practices in attracting and expanding manufacturing by using long-term planning that integrates targeted investments in workforce training, infrastructure, research, and other key assets. Strategies developed by these grants, will enhance regions' efforts to compete for future proposed large scale IMCP grants (50 to 100 times the size of the implementation strategy grants). Additional information on this opportunity is available [HERE](#).

**Healthy Foods Financing Initiative – Community and Economic Development Program**

*Deadline: July 2, 2013*

Office of Community Services (OCS) seeks to fund projects that will implement innovative strategies to eliminate food deserts and achieve sustainable employment and business opportunities for recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and other low-income individuals whose income level does not exceed 125 percent of the Federal poverty level. Applicants must be a qualified Community Development Corporation (CDC). More information is available [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.

**Department of Health and Human Services – Community and Economic Development Program**

*Deadline: July 3, 2013*

The Community and Economic Development (CED) program will provide approximately \$16.3 million in grants (\$800,000 maximum per project) to Community Development Corporations (CDCs) for projects designed to address the economic needs of low-income individuals and families through the creation of employment and business opportunities. The

CED program seeks to fund projects that address the personal and community barriers that must be overcome to help low-income individuals become self-sufficient. More information is available [HERE](#).

#### **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**

#### ***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.

#### ***EDA Webinar: EDA Unveils Tool to Help Communities Make Investment Decisions***

**Wednesday, May 15, 2:00-3:15 pm ET**

The U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) has scheduled a webinar on May 15 to provide an overview of the Triple Bottom Line Tool, an online resource designed to help optimize the impact of economic development investments on economic vitality, natural resource stewardship, and community well-being. More information is available [HERE](#) and registration is available [HERE](#).

#### ***Dallas Regional Solar Workshop***

**May 20, 2013, 8:30-12:30 pm**

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](#).

***iCERT Executive Forum in conjunction with CTIA Annual Conference and Exposition***

**May 20, 2013, 9:00 am - 3:30 pm, Las Vegas, NV**

An intimate forum where leaders in the field of emergency response technologies will hear from subject matter experts on the latest technological and policy-related developments, while engaging in meaningful dialogue on key concepts for the future of emergency calling and communications. To register, click [HERE](#).

***ICMA Webinar: Cybersecurity for Local Government***

**May 30, 1:0-2:30 p.m. ET**

Cybersecurity is not just a federal or private sector issue. It is a whole community issue that requires partnerships, vigilance, and proactive efforts on every level of government. Does your municipality have adequate security measures in place? Join ICMA's Center for Public Safety Management and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in this webinar to help local government managers protect their organizations and safeguard their citizens' records. Click [HERE](#) to register.

***ICMA Webinar: Building Urban Adaptation to Climate Change***

**June 4, 2013 11:00 am ET**

The International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and the Institute for Sustainable Communities will host the first of two CityLinks webinars, "[Addressing Key Risks and Engaging the Community in the Development of Urban Infrastructure for Climate Adaptation-U.S. Case Studies](#)." This session will explore how cities around the world are fostering locally-driven support and innovation to adapt to climate change. Hear from Susanne Torrientes, ICMA member and Assistant City Manager in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, talk about their lessons learned from Super Storm Sandy and how they are adapting their infrastructure to withstand the increasing intensity of storms and hurricanes. To register for this free webinar, 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](#).

***Solar Roadmap: Your Path to Regional Prosperity Webinar***

**June 6, 2:00-3:00 PM ET**

The Solar Roadmap is a platform for local governments and regional planning organizations to implement best practices to reduce soft costs for solar energy. Join NARC and Optony to learn how the Solar Roadmap can help your region determine realistic solar opportunities and best practices to transform your economy through solar development. 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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