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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

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eRegions

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PROGRAM UPDATE **POLICY UPDATE**
MEMBER ASSISTANCE REQUEST
GRANT OPPORTUNITIES **UPCOMING EVENTS**

2013 NARC Membership Meeting and Election Information: The 2013 NARC Membership Meeting and Elections are scheduled for Wednesday, June 26th at 12:15 pm ET during the 47th Annual Conference and Exhibition, in Philadelphia, PA. Click **HERE** for additional details.

Hotel rooms are still available, but limited - make your reservations today. Click **HERE** to make your reservations online.

Agenda Updates: Click **HERE** to access the updated agenda.

Discussion Session: The Role of Public Safety on the Path to Prosperity

Citizens and government leaders consistently rank public safety and community security as high priorities in providing a high quality of life to

Associate
Lindsey Riley
Deputy of
Communications
Erika Young
Transportation Director

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residents. With the economic conditions facing local governments today, it is essential that public safety services be improved along with other public services. It is now time to bring the leaders of government together with the leaders of industry together to find innovative solutions to traditional problems. The presenter for this session is:

- Steve Ambrosini, Executive Director, IJIS Institute

Greening the Gray – Celebrating Vibrant Communities

Green infrastructure is about more than green rooftops. It is a great strategy for enhancing regional economic competitiveness. This session will discuss overarching regional initiatives and teach us about innovative green infrastructure resiliency within large scale planning processes. The presenters for this session are:

- Courtney Kimmel, Fellow and Associate Director, Center for Leadership in Global Sustainability, Virginia Tech
- Christopher Linn, AICP, Manager, Office of Environmental Planning, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
- Christine Knapp, Director of Strategic Partnerships, Philadelphia Water Department, City of Philadelphia, PA
- Mark Celoni, Vice President, Pennoni Engineers

PROGRAMUPDATE

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 (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:

- June 10 - Oklahoma City, OK: Association of Central Oklahoma Governments

FREE Webinar on Local Broadband Initiatives: The National League of Cities, the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors and the Public Technology Institute are joining together to host a webinar on local broadband initiatives. Broadband, or high-speed internet, service providers can take many forms, ranging from national franchises to local providers to city/county governments to a combination of public and private partners working together. This webinar will give participants a better understanding of what the landscape of local broadband initiatives looks like in terms of public-private models, how and where local governments fit into these partnerships, and how they are financing and leveraging these initiatives to get the most benefit for their communities. More information and registration is available **HERE**.

POLICYUPDATE

Congress is in recess until June 3.

Senate Continues work on Farm Bill; Final Votes Still Pending: The Senate spent last week debating numerous amendments to the Agriculture Reform, Food and Jobs Act of 2013 (S 954). The chamber will continue to work through nearly 200 amendments upon returning from recess. Among the amendments to be considered is a proposal from Sen. Patrick Leahy to establish a pilot program for gigabit internet projects in rural areas. For more information on the Senate Farm Bill, visit **NARC's resource page**, which includes the recently released Statement of Administration Policy and full list of amendments to be considered.

Older Americans Act Reauthorization Introduced in Senate: Last week Sen. Bernie Sanders, introduced legislation to reauthorize the Older Americans Act of 1965 (S 1028), which expired in 2011. The measure currently has 14 co-sponsors, but no Republican support. Sanders introduced a bill half the size last year's proposal in an effort to focus on reauthorizing provisions with widespread agreement. The legislation also supports a 12 percent increase in desired funding levels reflecting the growth in seniors served by its programs and the increase in the cost of services since the last reauthorization. Both Sanders and Health Education Labor and Pensions Committee Chairman Tom Harkin have said they hope to have a markup on the measure soon, but have

not identified a timeline. NARC is working with Senate committee staff and will have additional information and resources as the bill moves forward.

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.

GRANTOPPORTUNITIES

Homeland Security Grant Funding

Click **HERE** to access a *Governing Magazine* article that details U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) grant funding and related issues, including association positions on the Obama Administration's grant consolidation proposal.

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.

Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership

Deadline: June 13, 2013

The Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP) program is an administration-wide initiative that aims to accelerate the resurgence of manufacturing and help cultivate an environment for businesses to create well-paying manufacturing jobs in regions across the country. Through an interagency collaborative, the EDA, Department of Agriculture, Small Business Administration and Environmental Protection Agency are awarding initial funding for regional

implementation-ready strategic planning efforts to enhance investment in the manufacturing sector and increase international trade and exports. More information about the opportunity and details about the NARC webinar about this funding opportunity (held May 17, 2013) are available **HERE**.

United States Department of Agriculture – Rural Business Opportunity Grant (RBOG) Program

Deadline: June 28, 2013

The USDA is accepting applications for grants to provide technical assistance to help rural businesses grow. This opportunity is also a part of the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership initiative. Grants are available to support projects that will help small rural businesses gain access to strategic planning, capacity building and mentoring services that otherwise may not be available. Applications are also being accepted through this opportunity as part of the IMCP program to promote the manufacturing sector. A USDA press release about the opportunity is available **HERE** and a link to the Federal Register notice 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**.

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**.

USDA – Rural Cooperative Development Grants

Deadline: July 10, 2013 (online applications) or July 15, 2013 (paper applications)

USDA is accepting grant applications from qualified non-profit organizations and educational facilities to help rural cooperatives develop new markets for their products and services. The grants may be used to conduct feasibility studies, create business plans, help rural cooperatives develop markets and provide training for cooperative leadership. Grants are awarded competitively on an annual basis to Rural Cooperative Development Centers, which in turn provide technical assistance to individuals and cooperatives. More information 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

Local Governments Role in Solar Financing for Commercial and Residential Deployment Webinar

May 30, 2013, 2:00pm ET

This webinar will provide an overview of the actions localities can take to support solar energy and guide you towards additional resources that will assist you as your community joins the chorus of solar backers. Click **HERE** to register.

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**.

EPA Webinar: Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities Training Academy

June 11, 3:00-4:00 pm ET

EPA delivers technical assistance through **Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities**. As part of this effort, they have developed 12 workshop tools that address common challenges faced by communities working to create more sustainable neighborhoods, cities, and regions. The next step is to create a training program for staff from public agencies and nonprofit organizations that provide technical assistance to communities. The training program will help these staff understand the Building Blocks tools and incorporate them into their technical assistance. During this listening session, we will gather input from key stakeholders on how best to design the training program and request feedback on specific questions such as: Who is the best target audience for this kind of training?; Should it be a one-day training, two-day training, or some other format?; Should training sessions be coordinated with major national conferences or held as separate events? No pre-registration is required. Dial into the conference call at 1-866-299-3188, participant code 2025662950. Click on **HERE**. Log in as a guest.

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.

ICMA Webinar: Human Trafficking is a Local Issue

June 26, 1:00-2:30 pm ET

An estimated 100,000 children are at risk of commercial sexual exploitation. The alarming trend is reaching small-town America as gangs are luring children from local schools in the United States into trafficking situations. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security warns that many gangs are profiting greatly from human trafficking. Join ICMA's Center for Public Safety Management and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in a webinar to discuss the warning signs and the resources available to local governments to combat this epidemic. Click **HERE** to register for this webinar.

2013 Ohio Conference on Freight

September 12-13, 2013, Sandusky, OH

SAVE THE DATE! Additional information will be released soon.

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