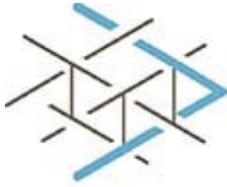


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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

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eRegions

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PROGRAM UPDATE **POLICY UPDATE**

MEMBER ASSISTANCE REQUEST

MEMBER360

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES **UPCOMING EVENTS**

2013 Executive Directors' Conference Dates Announced!

September 30 - October 2, 2013

Santa Monica, CA

Additional details will be distributed later this week.



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.

Communications

Erika Young

Transportation Director

To access past issues of *eRegions*, **visit our website.**

Make NARC your homepage — **click here to learn how.**

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

Learning Session: Philanthropy and Your Region

Foundations and philanthropic organizations can play a key role in your organizations sustainability as well as being part of a larger effort in creating regional prosperity. Presenters will discuss ways to engage philanthropic partners and what they can provide you region and your community.

- Laura Sparks, Vice President of Philanthropic Programs, William Penn Foundation
- Andrew Johnson, Senior Program Officer, William Penn Foundation
- Barry Seymour, Executive Director, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

Discussion Session: Food as a Vital Community and Competitiveness Resource

Connecting local food to markets and consumers is proven to increase community health and wealth. However, the means to create a regional food plan or system are not obvious or easy to implement. This session will discuss how regional planning organizations can work with community partners to promote local food.

- Alison Hastings, PP/AICP, Manager, Office of Strategic Partnerships, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
- Joani Walsh, Deputy Under Secretary for Market and Regulatory Programs, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Yael Lehmann, Executive Director, The Food Trust

Message from Chair Sean Dey, Executive Directors Council:

My term as Executive Directors Council (EDC) Chair will come to an end soon; and I would like to thank my peers for giving me an opportunity to lead the EDC during the past year. I would also like to highlight some of NARC's accomplishments during time this.

1. Under the leadership of the NARC Board of Directors and the EDC, our national association was able to implement a revenue stabilization program, which will enable the staff to concentrate

on advocacy of regional councils and regional approaches to community problem solving.

2. NARC prepared and presented to the membership a white paper titled *Future of Regions*. With the political and policy landscape changing significantly in Washington, accompanied by reduced federal funding for our regions and communities, this white paper provides a blueprint of what a future regional council may look like in order to stay relevant in a globally competitive environment.
3. Following a meeting with the White House Director of Intergovernmental Relations and senior federal officials, NARC was requested to provide a set of recommendations to make federal programs work better for communities and regions, for whom they are intended. As a result of this meeting NARC initiated the *Flexible Federalism Project*, the results of which will be finalized in the fall of 2013.

Space does not permit to highlight other accomplishments by our national association; but there are others.

In the beginning of my term as EDC chair I wrote in this column that our trust with destiny is defining a future role for regions in a globally competitive economy. This is our best step forward. I pledge to assist the new leadership of EDC as we work together towards this goal. Hope to see you at the Annual Conference in Philadelphia.

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 7 - Omaha, NE: Metro Community College

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

Senate Continues Working Toward Farm Bill Passage: This week the Senate will resume debate on the Agriculture Reform, Food and Jobs Act of 2013 (S 954). With over 200 amendments proposed, Senate Ag Committee Leadership will need to negotiate a timeline for consideration, which could come as early as today. Senate Majority Leader Reid has indicated willingness to limit debate if an agreement can't be hashed out. Senator Stabenow seemed hopeful final passage would happen by the end of the week. House Majority Leader Cantor has committed to bringing the measure to the floor this month and NARC has learned that two Rural Development funding amendments that failed in Committee will be offered for consideration by the full Chamber. More information on both proposals and additional resources are available [HERE](#).

MEMBER360

SCAG Testifies at Field Hearing for U.S. House T&I: On May 30, 2013, the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure held a field hearing to examine freight challenges that southern California experiences and their impact on the rest of the nation. NARC Executive Directors Council Member Hasan Ikhtrata, Executive Director of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) represented the voice of regionalism on this

panel. A copy of his testimony is available [HERE](#).

CMAP Releases Report Rail Report for Community: The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), in partnership with Developing Communities Project and the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), released [***Improving Access, Increasing Livability: The CTA Red Line South Extension***](#), which highlights the livability effects of extending the Red Line to Chicago's Roseland community and the greater far South Side. The proposed extension is one of five capital projects recommended in *GO TO 2040*, the region's blueprint; this report, the first of its kind for the Roseland, IL community and CTA, provides compelling examples of how an updated, reliable rail transit service would improve life for the community. Click [HERE](#) for additional information about the report, including an interactive gallery of videos and maps.

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.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

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.

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](#).

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](#).

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](#).

Measuring the Value of Prevention within the SMP Program

Application Deadline: July 8, 2013

ACL seeks applications that will describe how to best conduct research on prevention education, such as that conducted by the SMP program, to determine how to best measure and quantify the effects of these efforts. This research may include, but is not limited to, identification of methodologies for measuring cost savings or avoidance associated with SMP's fraud prevention efforts. Specifically, ACL is interested in reviewing and supporting applications that will describe how the applicant will: Conduct a literature review of methods to quantify the effects of community education on prevention to identify an appropriate methodology for measuring these efforts in general and within the SMP context; Determine how to best measure and estimate the effects of community education on health care fraud prevention according to the identified methodology; and Develop and implement, in conjunction with selected volunteer SMP project grantees, a pilot study to demonstrate the above developed measures and tools using the SMP program and

the program's Medicare fraud prevention efforts. ACL plans to fund one (1) cooperative agreement at the federal funding level of \$200,000 per year, over a three (3) year project period, pending availability of federal funds.

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.

Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant Program

Deadline: September 10, 2013

Funding is available to support the implementation of neighborhood revitalization plans aimed at replacing distressed public and assisted housing with high-quality mixed-income housing; improving educational outcomes and intergenerational mobility for youth with services and supports delivered directly to youth and their families; and encouraging public and private reinvestment in distressed neighborhoods. Communities must develop and implement a comprehensive neighborhood revitalization strategy, or Transformation Plan. More information is available [HERE](#).

UPCOMINGEVENTS

EPA and North Carolina State Hosting Disaster Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Webinars

June 4, 2013, 10:00 am ET – Adapting to Air Quality and Health Impacts

of Climate Change

June 4, 2013, 1:30 pm ET – Achieving Resiliency to Drought

June 4, 2013, 3:30 pm ET – Tribal Climate Adaptation

June 10, 2013, 11:30 am ET – Incorporating Emergency Preparedness and Hazard Mitigation into Adaptation Plans

June 10, 2013, 3:30 pm ET – Risk Management and Insurance Strategies related to Climate Change

June 11, 2013, 10:00 am ET – Equity and Adaptation for Vulnerable Communities

June 11, 2013, 1:30 pm ET – Climate Adaptation Decision Support Tools

June 11, 2013, 3:30 pm ET – Successful Response to Coastal Adaptation Challenges

June 12, 2013, 3:30 pm ET – Climate Adaptation: the Way Forward
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, in partnership with the North Carolina State University is hosting a series of webinars, in June, for states, tribes and local governments on disaster mitigation and climate adaptation. Click [HERE](#) to learn more or 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.

Solar Action Webinar Series: Innovation and Success in Organizing and Strategizing a Local Solar Effort

June 14, 2:00-3:00pm ET

Join the SunShot Initiative, in coordination with the Solar Outreach Partnership for the first webinar in the *Solar Action Webinar Series: Successes from the Rooftop Solar Challenge*. Join the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) to learn about their recent efforts to streamline solar processes in the metropolitan Kansas City region. Click [HERE](#) to register.

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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