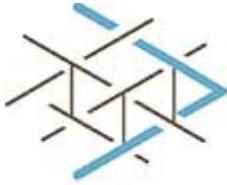


Email not displaying correctly? Click [HERE](#) to view it as a PDF.



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XIII, No. 22, June 10, 2013

eRegions

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

NARC staff is on the Hill meeting with Committees and Member's staff on RIIZs, workforce, transportation, EDA and aging this week. As legislation slowly makes its way through Congress before recess, we will be providing more coverage and talking points.

We also have a full and engaging Annual Conference agenda in Philadelphia planned for you. The theme of *Regional Competitiveness* is played out in a number of fantastic sessions ranging from goods movement to health and public safety. Every session is focused

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

[MEMBER ASSISTANCE REQUEST](#)

[PARTNER UPDATE](#)

[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.

on ideas and opportunities to help move regions forward. Register and come see us in Philly!

Best,
Fred

NARC LEADERSHIP

President

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

Chair Sean Dey,
Executive Directors
Council
Executive Director, West
Michigan Shoreline
Regional Development
Commission

NARC STAFF

Fred Abousleman

Executive Director

Shannon Baxevanis

Deputy Director

Autumn Campbell

Director of Community

Programs

Mia Colson

Program Analyst

Bridget Gribbin

Intern

Lindsey Riley

Deputy of
Communications

Erika Young

Transportation Director

Agenda Updates: Click [HERE](#) to access the updated agenda.

Learning Session: Is Your Region Economically Competitive? Assessing Your Region as “World Class”

How do you define regional success? Can you say your region is competitive? Does your region meet key indicators that regional leaders have defined for success and can your region compete in the larger national and international economy? Learn what regional success may be and how to create a “World Class” region.

- Steven Wray, Executive Director, Economy League of Greater Philadelphia
- Kenneth Poole, Executive Director, The Center for Community and Economic Research

Game Changer: Effective Regional Leadership – Helping to Move Our Regions to Prosperity

Regional leadership that can effectively transcend jurisdictional boundaries, bring diverse regional partners together, and look beyond the box for solutions to regional problems is key to regional success. Learn the value of regional leadership and how regional leaders are engaging communities in this informative session.

- The Honorable Matthew Holt, Chairman, North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority; and Freeholder, Hunterdon County, New Jersey
- Marilyn Jordan Taylor, Dean and Paley Professor, University of Pennsylvania School of Design

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

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

Make NARC your homepage — [click here to learn how](#).

USDA and EPA Launch Food Waste Challenge Program: Last week the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in collaboration with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), launched the U.S. Food Waste Challenge. The initiative invites producer groups, processors, manufacturers, retailers, communities, and other government agencies to join efforts to reduce food loss and waste, recover wholesome food for human consumption and recycle discards to other uses including animal feed, composting, and energy generation. More information on the program and information on how regional councils can get involved is available [HERE](#).

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](#).

Nominate a White House Champion of Change for Transformative Civic Engagement: Nominations for local leaders as Champions of Change for Transformative Civic Engagement are due by noon on Friday, June 21st. A Champion's work may involve: piloting a participatory and democracy-building initiative, such as one that engages citizens in governance beyond elections; engaging traditionally disengaged communities in local governance; or using new technologies to enhance transparency, participation, and collaboration in government. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

POLICYUPDATE

Senate Votes on Final Farm Bill Passage Today: After several long weeks of discussion and an ultimate move by Majority Leader Reid to limit debate, the Senate is expected to approve its version of the Farm Bill this evening. Senate Leaders expect a large majority will support final passage of The Agriculture Reform, Food and Jobs Act (S 954), and hope widespread approval will provide additional leverage in upcoming

conference negotiations. The House is slated to consider its version of the Farm Bill reauthorization next week, which could prove contentious. NARC and industry partners are working with Members to push two amendments during floor debate to increase funding for rural development programs. Both amendments were narrowly rejected during full committee markup in May. More information on Farm Bill activities is available [HERE](#).

NARC and Coalition on Support Senate Workforce Investment Act

Reauthorization Efforts: Today, NARC along with the National Association of Counties, the National League of Cities, U.S. Conference of Mayors, the National Association of Workforce Boards and the National Association of Development Organizations sent a letter to Senate leaders supporting Senate efforts to reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act. The coalition supports a strong and modernized workforce system, and efforts to increase investments in quality services, resources and training. A copy of the letter is available [HERE](#).

PARTNERUPDATE

Encouraging Solar Development in HOA Communities Report: Last week the Solar Foundation released a report designed to educate homeowner association (HOA) boards and other community leaders on how solar development can occur while respecting other legitimate community interests and without requiring HOAs to further cede their authority to govern. Check out the report [HERE](#).

NEW Solar Streamlined Permitting Website: The Vote Solar Initiative recently launched Project Permit, an interactive website that scores local permitting practices to help lower solar costs across the U.S. Project Permit is designed to help government officials and solar stakeholders understand and improve local permitting practices. Check out Project Permit, [HERE](#).

MEMBERASSISTANCEREQUEST

Regional Environmental Awards Programs: The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) is looking for examples of any existing regional environmental awards programs that recognize member local governments for environmental achievements. Additionally, MWCOG is interested in learning about programs that recognize not only the governments traditionally known for being really

green, but are able to also recognize members that are making strides, such as smaller governments that have launched innovative projects or those most improved on greening their government or community.

Please forward any examples you can to Lindsey Riley,

lindsey@narc.org.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

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](#).

USDA – Office of Rural Development

Deadline: July 5, 2013

The USDA Office of Rural Development has announced funding available to assist communities with water and wastewater systems. Qualified private non-profit organizations will receive RFP grant funds to establish a lending program for eligible entities. This grant program is to serve a rural area with a population not in excess of 10,000. More information on this opportunity 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 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.

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.

NTIA Webinar on Connect2Compete Initiative

June 25, 2013, 2:00-3:30pm ET

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration will host a webinar presentation to provide an update on the Connect2Compete initiative. This presentation will provide an update about the EveryoneOn awareness campaign to connect low-income families and individuals with affordable high-speed Internet, computers, education and training. The session will also answer questions about the C2C partnership program, which provides a streamlined way for organizations to help their community members access high-speed Internet. Register for this webinar [HERE](#).

Analyzing and Managing Bill Impacts of Energy Efficiency Programs Webinar

June 26, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

Energy efficiency programs offer a wide array of benefits to customers and energy utilities. While efficiency programs will reduce customers' bills, they can also result in increased rates. This webinar will provide state utility regulators and other key stakeholders with recommendations to consider in assessing the bill and rate impacts resulting from utility-sector energy efficiency programs. To register, click [HERE](#).

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.

We are sending you this email primarily for your information, to meet your needs, further our valued relationship and because you requested to receive electronic newsletters from the National Association of Regional Councils. Please forward as appropriate.

[Unsubscribe](#) lindsey@narc.org from this list.

Our mailing address is:
National Association of Regional Councils
777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 305
Washington, DC 20002

[Add us to your address book](#)

Copyright (C) 2013 National Association of Regional Councils All rights reserved.

[Forward](#) this email to a friend
[Update your profile](#)