



*Most of our presentations have now been uploaded to the [conference webpage](#). Stay tuned for associated resources, video links, and a handful of remaining presentations.*

## NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

*Congress is in session.*

### House Approves First 2019 Spending Bills

The House approved its first three fiscal year (FY) 2019 spending bills, mostly along party lines, in a **minibus package** last Friday. The three FY 2019 bills – **Energy and Water, Legislative Branch**, and **Military Construction and Veterans Affairs** – add up to \$145.4 billion in discretionary spending. House Democrats expressed concerns over provisions that would cut funding from clean energy initiatives and expand gun rights on public lands. And conservative groups expressed concerns over the minibus because the three bills saw a combined increase of \$7.8 billion over last year’s spending levels.

### House Clears WRDA

By a vote of 408 to 2, the House overwhelmingly passed the *Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2018 (H.R. 8)*. “I thank [Transportation and Infrastructure Committee] Chairman [Bill] Shuster, [Transportation and Infrastructure Committee] Ranking Member [Peter] DeFazio, and [Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee] Chairman [Garret] Graves for their work on this WRDA,” said Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee Ranking Member Grace Napolitano. “It includes important provisions that require the Army Corps to work more with local communities and cities, in every congressional district, on improving water infrastructure to meet their individual needs, including water supply, water treatment, environmental restoration, stormwater capture, and flood control.” The Senate is expected to consider this bill on the floor sometime this summer. It is likely that the two chambers will conference the bill to reconcile differences between their versions.

## **Senate Appropriations Update**

Last Thursday, the Senate Committee on Appropriations advanced the **FY 2019 Transportation-HUD spending bill** to full floor consideration. The bill would provide \$1.1 billion more than FY 2018. While the bill fully funds the authorized FAST Act levels, appropriations for U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) are \$698 million less than the enacted level in FY 2018, due to a \$1.8 billion increase for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Senate proposal also includes \$1 billion in BUILD grants, which is \$500 million less than FY 2018. It also funds the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program at \$3.3 billion, keeping it consistent with FY 2018 funding.

## **Senators Introduce Bipartisan Plan to Reauthorize SNAP**

Senate Agriculture Chairman Pat Roberts (R-KS) and Ranking Member Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) last week introduced a bipartisan plan to reauthorize the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) as part of the Farm Bill. Though very popular, SNAP recently became a political football in large part because of the overall cost of the program. Conservative House members generally have wished to reduce SNAP spending and tighten eligibility requirements as a way of reducing overall costs. Their proposal, which is included in the House version of the Farm Bill, could force as many as two million recipients off the rolls and dramatically increase the number of individuals and families facing food insecurity.

The Senate proposal would make some minor changes to SNAP but would avoid the significant funding cuts and eligibility changes that the House is considering. According to the senators, it would improve program integrity, operations, and administration, as well as expand the 2014 pilot program that tested new approaches to job training and other employ-related activities. Supporters of the SNAP program indicated that they believe there are other things Congress could do to improve SNAP, but also agree that this bill represents a major step forward to maintain and strengthen the program.

The Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry will mark up their version of the Farm Bill on June 13 at 9:30 AM ET. To learn more about the contents of the Senate Farm Bill, see the **full legislative text**, a **section-by-section summary**, the committee's official **press release**, and the **live webcast of the markup** on Wednesday morning.

## **House Begins Consideration of Dozens of Bills to Combat the Opioid Crisis**

Over the next two weeks, the House will consider dozens of bills to help tackle the opioid crisis. House Energy and Commerce Chairman Greg Walden (R-OR) and Health Subcommittee Chairman Michael C. Burgess, M.D. (R-TX) said in a joint statement, "Just as this isn't our first legislative foray to fight this scourge, it certainly won't be our last." The bills that will be considered this week include efforts to educate pharmacists, making a publicly accessible online collection of nationwide efforts and strategies to combat the opioid crisis, and creating a program that would test alternative pain-treating options to limit the use of opioids in emergency departments. The House is likely to combine most of these bipartisan bills into a package to consider on the floor.

## **National Local Government Associations Submit Letter to FCC**

Last week NARC, the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors, the National League of Cities, the National Association of Counties, and the National Association of Towns and Townships wrote a letter to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regarding their Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee (BDAC). While our groups applauded the work BDAC has undertaken to look at regulatory barriers to broadband and produce model state and local municipal codes, we asked them to consider the following concerns:

- The composition of the BDAC, which has a low representation of local governments;
- The model state code includes unfair mandates on local governments, including preempting local rights of way; and
- The BDAC's Ad Hoc Rates and Fees Committee is using unverifiable and insufficient data.

## **EPA Quarterly Intergovernmental Outreach Meeting**

Last week, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) held its Quarterly Outreach Meeting with Intergovernmental Associations where they discussed reducing childhood lead exposure. EPA National Lead Coordinator Hayley Hughes briefed the group on the agency's strategy and issues

surrounding the effort. She stated that EPA has set a goal of eradicating lead from the drinking water supply within a decade. EPA Deputy Administrator Andrew Wheeler was also present at the meeting and provided insight on the agency's priorities at large, including bringing more certainty to the permitting process while reducing permitting time, and doing a better job of risk communication, especially with communities closest to hazardous facilities. In keeping with that goal, EPA will kick off a series of community engagement events on a related drinking water contaminant, polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). The first event will be held in Exeter, New Hampshire on June 25.

## **REGION SPOTLIGHT**

### **Seattle, Baltimore Take on the Housing Affordability Crisis**

According to Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies Managing Director Chris Herbert, just under half of all renters nationwide in 2018 are "cost burdened," or pay more than 30 percent of their income on housing. Robert Pinnegar, president and CEO of National Apartment Association, recommends that mayors "prioritize development of apartment housing, plan for diversity within it, and partner with their local apartment associations." To tackle this growing issue, the City of Baltimore now offers first-time home buyers tax credits to live in particular areas and is creating a \$55 million neighborhood investment fund dedicated to affordable housing. Seattle is making \$100 million in investments leveraged into \$200 million in starts for affordable housing and is looking at rezoning to build density in neighborhoods and making it easier to build on additions to existing properties.

## **MEMBER REQUEST**

### **ACOG Request: Policies and Procedures Re: Uniform Grant Guidance**

The Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG) needs assistance in developing written policies and procedures, especially those required by the Uniform Grant Guidance to be in writing. Please share copies of your policies and procedures.

Additionally, ACOG does not have staff available and qualified to take on this project from scratch and would appreciate information on a consultant who does this, and a sample RFP used to procure such a consultant. Please send your responses to Maci Morin at [maci.hurley@narc.org](mailto:maci.hurley@narc.org).

## **JOBS**

*View full list of jobs!*

### **Program Manager of Economic and Demographic Forecasting**

San Diego Association of Governments, San Diego, CA

### **Active Transportation Planner**

Wasatch Front Regional Council, Salt Lake City, UT

### **Division Director of Toll Operations**

San Diego Association of Governments, San Diego, CA

### **Executive Director**

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, Lansing, MI

### **Research & Analysis Assistant**

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Chicago, IL

### **Director of Policy and Planning**

Capitol Region Council of Governments, Hartford, CT

### **Senior Planner**

Puget Sound Regional Council, Seattle, WA

### **Principal Data Analyst**

Houston Galveston Area Council, Houston, TX

### **Planner – Transportation**

Houston Galveston Area Council, Houston, TX

## **Principal Planner – Transportation**

Houston Galveston Area Council, Houston, TX

## **Manager, Transportation Planning**

Houston Galveston Area Council, Houston, TX

## **Manager – Transportation Program**

Houston Galveston Area Council, Houston, TX

## **FUNDING**

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

### **Rural Cooperative Development Grant Program**

Applications Due: July 24

The Rural Cooperative Development Grant program helps improve the economic condition of rural areas by helping individuals and businesses start, expand, or improve rural cooperatives and other mutually-owned businesses through Cooperative Development Centers. Nonprofit organizations may apply for this grant opportunity for developing and operating a Rural Cooperative Development Center. Examples of technical assistance and other services the Centers provide are: conducting feasibility studies, developing business plans, providing leadership and operational improvement training, and facilitating strategic planning. A center can be located in any area, but the individuals and business assisted must be located in an eligible rural area.

### **YouthBuild Funding Opportunity**

Applications Due: September 18

The U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) Employment and Training Administration (ETA) announces the availability of approximately \$85 million in grant funds authorized by the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act* (WIOA) for YouthBuild. Under this Funding Opportunity Announcement, DOL will award grants through a competitive process to organizations providing pre-apprenticeship services that support education, occupational skills training, and employment services to at-risk youth, ages 16 to 24, while performing meaningful work and service to their communities. In addition to construction skills training, YouthBuild applicants may include occupational skills training in other in-demand industries. This expansion into additional in-demand industries is the Construction Plus component, a priority in this grant competition. Applicants may apply for an amount ranging from \$700,000 to a ceiling amount of up to \$1.1 million. This program requires matching funds equal to 25 percent of the total federal share of costs.

## **EVENTS**

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

### **The State of Appropriations**

June 13, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

The appropriations process is in full swing as lawmakers approach election season. The House has started to bring some of the less controversial spending measures to the floor. Meanwhile, the Senate Appropriations Committee is considering measures, though the timing on the floor remains murky. As in prior years, the prospect of a continuing resolution or even a government shutdown looms large. Join Bloomberg Government legislative analysts for a conversation covering:

- The state of play for House and Senate appropriators;
- Key provisions of major spending bills;
- Events that could facilitate a spending agreement; and
- The chances of a short-term continuing resolution and how the midterm election could influence that outcome.

### **Smart Agriculture: Increasing Productivity Through Technology**

June 20, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

Smart agriculture engages technologies such as Big Data, GPS, IoT and connected devices to help farmers and ranchers better manage their production. Using these technologies, farmers and

ranchers can improve water efficiency, produce higher quality crops, and raise healthier livestock. Reliable and robust rural connectivity are fundamental to helping farmers gain benefits from new technologies. The speakers will cover advances in smart agriculture equipment and sensors and the use of big data analytics for decision-making, as well as highlight innovation hubs, entrepreneurial support, and test beds. The webinar will also feature the work of the NTIA/NIST jointly facilitated Global Cities Team Challenge Smart Agriculture and Rural SuperCluster to develop best practices.

### **The Power of Local Innovation: Tackling Economic Insecurity**

June 25, 2:00-4:00 PM ET

Despite the outward signs of a growing economy, many Americans live on an economic precipice. Stagnant wages, lack of mobility, income volatility, and low savings make it difficult for many individuals and families to gain and sustain economic traction. Although economic insecurity is a national problem, local communities across the nation are developing innovative solutions to tackle its root causes and chronic effects. The Bipartisan Policy Center, partnering with the National Association of Counties, has canvassed county-led efforts aimed at addressing the full range of problems caused by economic insecurity. Join them for an event highlighting some of these leading innovations and exploring ideas and policies that could spread the benefits of these innovations more widely.

### **City-Anchor Partnership - Part Two**

July 11, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

This webinar is the second in a series of web forums co-sponsored by the National League of Cities and the Anchor Institutions Task Force. Two City-Anchor partners will share their collaboration on root factors that affect health. The panel will include the City of Columbus and Nationwide Children's Hospital on their affordable housing/social determinants of health initiative.

## **CONTACT US**

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