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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

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**eRegions**

## EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

In less than a week, we will converge on Philadelphia and our Annual Conference excitement starts. You can still register and partake in the largest and most active event for regions of all sizes and shapes in the country. Join us next week to learn and share how regions can excel. Last week we pressed hard on MAP-21 implementation, Older Americans Act, WIA, and the Farm Bill. We'll be presenting our work to date on all of these issues at the Annual Conference – join us and be part of the conversation.

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## 2013 Executive Directors' Conference Dates Announced!

September 30 - October 2, 2013

Santa Monica, CA



**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.

See you on Sunday,  
Fred

## **NARCLEADERSHIP**

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### **Chair Sean Dey,**

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Intern

### **Lindsey Riley**

Deputy of  
Communications

### **Erika Young**

Transportation Director

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## **PROGRAMUPDATE**

**Building a 21st Century Electric Grid:** As part of President Obama's initiative to make America a magnet for jobs by building a 21st century infrastructure, he signed a Presidential memorandum that will speed the modernization of the nation's electric grid. This will help make electricity more reliable, save consumers money on their energy bills, and support homegrown American clean energy jobs and industries by making renewable energy easier to access across the country. To read more, click [HERE](#).

**NACO Releases Report on Changing the Tax-Exempt Status of Municipal Bonds:** This week the National Association of Counties (NACO) is rolling out a report examining the detrimental effects to infrastructure financing that the proposed plan to eliminate or cap the tax-exempt status on municipal bonds would have. Municipal bonds are essential to local government financing for infrastructure projects including schools, hospitals, water and sewer facilities and roads. According to the report, in 2012 local governments invested more than \$3 trillion in infrastructure through municipal bonds – or 2.5 times the federal investment. NARC is taking part in coalition efforts to encourage lawmakers to keep the municipal bonds tax-exempt status during upcoming tax reform debates. More information and the full report is available [HERE](#).

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## **POLICYUPDATE**

**Farm Bill Passes Senate; House Action this Week:** Last week by a vote of 66 -27 the Senate passed its version of the Farm Bill. The Agriculture Reform, Food and Jobs Act (S 954), which reauthorizes the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) activities for five years, would reduce current spending levels by \$23 billion. This is significantly less than the nearly \$40 billion in cuts outlined in the House version that is slated for chamber consideration starting Wednesday. Last week, NARC joined a coalition of agriculture industry groups on a [letter to Members](#) calling on the House to approve proposed amendments to restore mandatory funding for USDA Rural Development programs for the Water/Wastewater Backlog Program, the Rural Micro-entrepreneur Assistance Program (RMAP) and the Value Added Producer Grants (VAPG). More information on Farm Bill activities is available [HERE](#).

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## MEMBER ASSISTANCE REQUEST

**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](mailto:lindsey@narc.org).

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## GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

### **EPA's National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program**

*Application Deadline: June 25, 2013*

EPA's National Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program is soliciting proposals nationwide for projects that achieve significant reductions in diesel emissions in terms of tons of pollution produced by diesel engines and diesel emissions exposure. For more information, click [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](#).

#### **USDA – Community Connect Program**

*Deadline: July 11, 2013*

The USDA has announced its Community Connect Grant Program aimed to provide financial assistance in the form of grants to eligible applicants that will provide currently unserved areas, on a “community-oriented connectivity” basis, with broadband service that fosters economic growth and delivers enhanced educational, health care, and public safety services. More information is available [HERE](#) and there will be a series of upcoming webinars on the program. Information on upcoming webinars 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.

### **USDA – Rural Development**

*Deadline: July 15, 2013*

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is seeking applications from cooperatives to provide technical assistance to small, socially disadvantaged agricultural producers in rural areas. Eligible applicants include cooperatives, groups of cooperatives, and cooperative development centers. The maximum award per grant is \$200,000. The grant period is limited to a one-year timeframe. Click [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](#).

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## **UPCOMINGEVENTS**

### ***Riparian Tree Planting for Healthy Watersheds Webinar***

**June 20, 1:00-2:00 PM ET**

As communities shoulder greater concern over water resources in urban areas, preserving natural buffer zones is a top priority. Learn how **Riparian tree planting programs can help address pollution, erosion, flooding, and litter issues along river banks**. To register, click [HERE](#).

### ***NARC's 47th Annual Conference and Exhibition***

**June 23-26, 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.

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