



Presentations and video links are available on our [conference webpage](#).

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

Congress is in session.

NARC Member to Testify on Capitol Hill

Diane Rath, executive director of Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) and NARC Public Safety Committee co-chair, has been invited to testify at a House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Environment hearing this week. The purpose of the hearing is to examine the ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and to gather state perspectives on regulating background ozone. AACOG is known for its great work in convening local and regional stakeholders to develop air quality reduction plans and address air quality issues, so Diane's knowledge and experience will be essential to add to this federal conversation. **Watch Ms. Rath testify via Livestream** on Thursday at 10:00 AM ET.

Appropriations Update

Both the House and Senate are making progress getting fiscal year appropriations bills through their appropriations committees and to the respective chamber for consideration. The House already **passed its first "minibus" package** – passing the energy and water, legislative branch, and military construction and veterans affairs bills on the House floor and approving \$145.4 billion in discretionary funding. The House only has three more appropriations bills to mark up and send out of full committee, including financial services and general government, homeland security, and state-foreign operations.

Meanwhile, the Senate will have a vote this evening on proceeding to their version of the same "minibus" package that the House passed. The Senate Appropriations Committee voted seven bills through to be considered by the floor so far. Five appropriations bill markups remain, including state-foreign operations, homeland security, financial services and general government, defense,

and labor-health and human services-education. The committee is planning on finishing these markups by late next week.

Senate Expected to Finish Defense Reauthorization Bill Consideration

Today, the Senate is expected to complete its consideration of the *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (HR 5515)*. This comes after much debate from Senate Republicans, many growing increasingly frustrated after having their respective amendments blocked by other GOP colleagues. **This \$716 billion reauthorization includes** \$617.6 billion for the U.S. Department of Defense base budget and \$21.6 billion for defense-related programs under the U.S. Department of Energy. The House passed its version of the bill back in late May with bipartisan support by a vote of 351-66. The two chambers will likely conference the bills to work out the differences.

Senate Still Deciding on Whether to Take Up Rescissions Package

In a close 210-206 vote, the House approved the *Spending Cuts to Expired and Unnecessary Programs Act (HR 3)*, a rescissions package that would revoke \$15 billion in appropriated funds from various federal agencies. Congress has until Friday to approve the rescissions package by a simple majority, which would sidestep a filibuster by Senate Democrats. However, Senate Republicans may not be able to garner a simple majority to pass it. Some GOP Senators, including Senators Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Richard Shelby (R-AL), have indicated that they are either still evaluating the rescissions package or have concerns associated with it. No Senate Democrat has said they will support the bill, largely because nearly half of the \$15 billion in funding will come from unobligated funds associated with the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

Disasters are Getting Costlier, So the U.S. Government is Buying Reinsurance

After borrowing a page from the private sector playbook and buying reinsurance for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is exploring the expansion and use of reinsurance. Since last year, FEMA has purchased about \$2.46 billion in reinsurance for the NFIP, which has been strained with the increase of extreme weather disasters. FEMA **announced** back in April that it intended to buy a catastrophe bond that works like reinsurance and gives the investor a return unless disaster costs to the federal government reaches a certain threshold. House Republican Dennis Ross also introduced **a bill to have FEMA explore buying reinsurance for its overall disaster costs, and not just flooding**.

Treasury, IRS Announce Final Round of Opportunity Zone Designations

Last week, the U.S. Department of the Treasury (Treasury) and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) announced the final round of **Opportunity Zone designations**. In total, the program designated areas in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and five U.S. possessions. The Opportunity Zone program was created by last year's major federal tax bill to spur investment in distressed communities – new investments made in these areas are eligible to receive preferential tax treatment. These areas chosen will retain their designation for ten years, potentially having a positive impact on the lives of the thirty-five million Americans that live in an Opportunity Zone. To learn more about this program, check out the **IRS's Opportunity Zones Frequently Asked Questions page**.

REGION SPOTLIGHT

HUD Designates Western Piedmont COG, Regional Housing Authority as 1 of 17 EnVision Centers

Earlier this month, the Western Piedmont Council of Government's (WPCOG) Regional Housing Authority was announced as one of the first seventeen EnVision Center designations around the nation by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). According to HUD, these centers will "offer HUD-assisted families access to support services that can help them achieve self-sufficiency, thereby making scarce federal resources more readily available to a greater number of households currently waiting to receive HUD assistance." WPCOG is expected to collaborate with federal agencies, state and local governments, non-profits, faith-based organizations, corporations, public housing authorities, and housing finance agencies to help achieve the mission of the regional EnVision Center. Congratulations, WPCOG!

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.

JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Senior Planner (Lead Planner)

Palm Beach Transportation Planning Agency, West Palm Beach, FL

Executive Director

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, Lansing, MI

Transportation Engineer/Planner

Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments, Colorado Springs, CO

Transportation Planner

Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments, Colorado Springs, CO

FUNDING

[View full list of grants!](#)

2018 Regional Innovation Strategies Program

Applications Due: August 29

The Regional Innovation Strategies (RIS) Program catalyzes community and regional capacity-building, ultimately helping to better identify and align assets to help manufacturers innovate and succeed, support businesses' export-related needs, attract foreign direct investment (FDI), and create and implement strategies that create jobs. The RIS Program empowers communities to provide proof-of-concept and commercialization assistance to innovators and entrepreneurs and operational support for organizations that provide essential early-stage funding for startups, building platforms to leverage public and private sector infrastructure investments in broadband and digital connectivity, transportation, education, and beyond. Under this 2018 RIS Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), EDA is soliciting applications for two separate competitions:

- **The 2018 i6 Challenge:** The i6 Challenge will provide funding to invest in the development, creation, or expansion of proof-of-concept and commercialization programs that accelerate innovation-led economic development in pursuit of vibrant, innovative economies and economic growth. Proposed projects may aim for some of or all the following outputs and outcomes categories: innovation, entrepreneurship, regional connectivity, and commercialization of research. EDA plans to award approximately \$16,000,000 under the 2018 i6 Challenge. The maximum federal share of each i6 Challenge grant is \$750,000. A matching share of at least 50% of the total matching costs is required.
- **The 2018 Seed Fund Support (SFS) Grant Competition:** SFS Grants provide funding for technical assistance to support the creation, launch, or expansion of equity-based, cluster-focused seed funds that invest regionally-managed risk capital in regionally-based startups with a potential for high growth. Proposed projects may aim for some or all of the following outputs and outcomes categories: early-stage capital support for innovation-based, growth-oriented companies; increased regional fund management capacity; plan for sustainability; and demonstrated ecosystem and downstream support. EDA plans to award approximately \$5,000,000 under the 2018 SFS Grant Competition. The maximum federal share of each SFS Grant is \$300,000. A matching share of at least 50% of the total matching costs is required.

EVENTS

View full list of events!

Understanding Patient Barriers to Seeking and Accessing Opioid Use Disorder Treatment

June 27, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

The opioid overdose crisis has had a devastating impact on all communities. Increasing access to evidence-based treatment, such as medication-assisted treatment, is critical to curbing overdose deaths. This webinar will highlight barriers to care identified through Pew's qualitative research in Indiana and Wisconsin, including focus groups with experts in policy and treatment, as well as individuals and families affected by the opioid crisis. The discussion will also focus on policy recommendations to overcome such barriers.

Lessons Learned: 911 Governance System Collaboration

July 10, 12:00-1:00 PM ET

For the past year, 911 administrators, statewide interoperability coordinators, governors' offices, legislators, and others have met state-by-state to collaborate in developing action-oriented plans to enhance state governance structures in emergency communication. Speakers from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security will discuss the impact of the workshops and address what's next in helping states collaborate internally to ensure optimal governance customized for the needs of each state. In addition, a state representative will discuss work plans drafted at the workshop and lessons learned throughout the process of collaboration.

SLLC Supreme Court Review

July 24, 1:00-2:00 PM ET

Between the internet sales tax case, partisan gerrymandering, the union dues case, the travel ban, and several First Amendment cases, this Supreme Court term will have implications for states and local governments for decades to come. Join Eric Citron from Goldstein & Russell, who briefed the internet sales tax case; Shay Dvoretzky, who argued a First Amendment retaliatory arrest case; and Lydia Wheeler, a legal and regulatory affairs reporter for *The Hill*, in a discussion of the most important cases of the term for states and local governments.

Sustainable Fleet Technology Conference

August 22-23, Durham, NC

The Sustainable Fleet Technology Conference, hosted by the North Carolina Clean Energy Technology Center, showcases the latest and greatest in advanced vehicles, fuels, and technologies — including data-driven solutions. This conference is a source of on-the-ground experience for increasing fleet efficiency and sustainability while reducing emissions and costs.

CONTACT US

Copyright © 2018 National Association of Regional Councils. All rights reserved.

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)