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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

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eRegions

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

The good: The new [NARC.ORG](#) is here; please visit the new website. More information and additional changes will be posted in upcoming weeks. We wanted to ensure the technology behind the website was solid before we launched. For technophiles or those wanting to build a new website we use WordPress 3.4. While the design will change over time, the quality and quantity of content will not. We are very happy to have our new web page up and hope you will enjoy and use all it has to offer.



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PROGRAMUPDATE

White House Rural Council and USDA Release Rural Development

Report: The White House Rural Council and the U.S. Department of Agriculture released a report on U.S. rural development programs; click [HERE](#) for more information.

Green Roof Savings Calculator: American Rivers developed an new online calculator that lets you discover the benefits of installing green roofs on your home or business. The "Get More Green" calculator,

The not so good:
Agencies could see spending cuts of 12.1 percent starting Jan. 2, 2013, if Congress does not come up with an alternative to sequestration. The estimated reduction is based on agencies' fiscal 2012 discretionary budgets, according to a report from the Congressional Research Service (click [HERE](#)). The largest decline would occur in fiscal 2013, starting in fiscal 2014. The Office of Management and Budget said that it is not offering any contingency plans to agencies in the expectation that Congress will hash out their political differences to avoid sequestration. Lockheed Martin one of the Nation's largest defense contractors is preparing layoff notifications in advance of budget cuts. Read the story [HERE](#).

Best,
Fred

NARCLEADERSHIP

President Ron Morrison,
Mayor,
National City, CA
Chair Mark Policinski,
Executive Directors
Council

available [HERE](#), allows visitors to enter an address via Google Maps, and determine the square footage of a building's roof. Visitors then get a customized look at the benefits of their green roof -- including the annual estimated cost savings for heating, cooling, and roof repair, along with how much polluted runoff will be kept out of their local stream.

TIGER Grant Programs Announced: The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) announced the award winners of the fourth round of discretionary Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program grants today. U.S. DOT announced a total of \$500 million was awarded to 47 transportation projects in 34 states and the District of Columbia, with more than \$120 million awarded to projects in rural areas. Click [HERE](#) to access more information.

NARC's Transportation Webinar: NARC's next Transportation Committee webinar is scheduled for Tuesday, July 10, 2012 from 12:00pm-2:00pm ET. NARC and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will discuss their recently released report on transit in nonmetropolitan regions. While the agenda is yet to be released, you can Click [HERE](#) to register early and [HERE](#) for more information.

POLICYUPDATE

The House and Senate are in session.

Senate Passes Farm Bill: The Senate passed the Farm Bill ([S. 3240](#)) late last week, which includes \$150 billion in funding for Rural Development programs; click [HERE](#) for more information and check back for analysis and updates.

FY13 Appropriations Update: Last week, a House Appropriations Subcommittee approved the FY13 Interior-Environment spending bill, which seeks to cut the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) funding by \$1.4B, a nearly 17 percent reduction, with the most significant reductions in the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (CWSRF, DWSRF). The CWSRF received a 53 percent cut to \$689M and the DWSRF has a proposed cut of nearly percent to \$829M. Additionally, state and local grants to grants to administer environmental programs, including clean water and air, would be cut by \$96M. The bill's language would also prohibit EPA from spending any

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funds to develop new stormwater regulations. This week the full House Appropriations Committee is scheduled to take up this bill as well as the Transportation-HUD (T-HUD) and Agriculture bills. The T-HUD bill would be allocated \$51.6B, a cut of \$3.9B. The Agriculture bill would be allocated \$19.4B, a cut of \$365M.

White House Calls on Congress for Action: The White House has laid out a course of action for Congress before they depart for the July 4th recess. Click [HERE](#) to see the White House agenda.

NLC/NACo Webinar on The Future of Water Infrastructure Funding: Join a free webinar hosted by the National League of Cities (NLC) and the National Association of Counties (NACo) this Wednesday, June 27 from 2:30-3:45pm ET. The webinar will focus on alternative mechanisms of funding water infrastructure and examine specific proposals pending in Congress. Click [HERE](#) to register.

REGIONS360

Request for Qualifications (RFQ) from Broward MPO: Deadline 5:00 PM, July 2, 2012; The Broward MPO is seeking qualified consultants to conduct a transit alternative analysis study for the University Drive corridor in Broward County, Florida to implement the Premium Transit and Mobility Hub concept of the Broward MPO's 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan. Potential applicants should be able to provide the services as outlined in the attached RFQ announcement. The RFQ document can be downloaded by clicking [HERE](#).

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge: Advanced Manufacturing

Application Deadline: July 9, 2012

Several agencies from the Department of Commerce and Department of Labor have announced a multi-agency effort to fund advanced manufacturing activities that drive high potential industry clusters. The Advanced Manufacturing Jobs Accelerator allows applicants to submit a single multi-year project narrative to multiple agencies which will in turn fund various aspects of the project. Up to 12 awards are anticipated, with each award receiving funding from one or more participating

agencies. Access the Federal Funding Opportunity [HERE](#) or click [HERE](#) for more resources and information.

Economic Development Administration's i6 Challenge

Deadline: July 20, 2012

The U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration's (EDA) Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, in conjunction with the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, is holding the third round of the i6 Challenge. Teams must submit proposals to establish or expand Proof of Concept Centers: institutions like the Deshpande Center for Technological Innovation at the Massachusetts Institute for Technology that provide seed grants for innovators and entrepreneurs. Six winning teams will be awarded up to \$1 million each. Click [HERE](#) for more information and see Upcoming Events for related webinars.

Strong Cities, Strong Communities (SC2) Visioning Challenge

Deadline: July 23, 2012

The EDA will select six cities, one from each of its regions, to award up to \$1 million to conduct their own regional two-phase competitions to encourage innovation in regional development. In the first phase experts in engineering, transportation, economic development or other fields will submit economic development proposals for the area. Those who submit the highest-rated proposals will receive a cash prize and then, in the second phase, go on to compete for a larger prize by creating a more comprehensive development plan. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

UPCOMINGEVENTS

Ecosystem Services and TMDLs

June 27, 2012, 1:00pm-2:30pm EDT:

U.S. EPA's Ecosystem Services Research Program (ESRP) is hosting a webinar entitled *Incorporating Ecosystem Services in Optimization Strategies for TMDLs*. The webinar focuses on evaluating the least-cost mix of green and gray infrastructure that achieves the TMDLs and how the mix changes if ecosystem service benefits are considered to offset costs. To register, please click [HERE](#).

NLC/NACo Webinar on The Future of Water Infrastructure Funding

June 27, 2012, 2:30-3:45pm

Join a free webinar hosted by the National League of Cities (NLC) and the National Association of Counties (NACo) this Wednesday, June 27. The webinar will focus on alternative mechanisms of funding water infrastructure and examine specific proposals pending in Congress. Click [HERE](#) to register.

Conference Calls for Potential i6 Challenge Applicants

June 27, 2012, 2:00pm & 4:00 pm ET

The EDA will continue to hold interactive calls for prospective i6 Challenge applicants to offer insight on how to design and implement award winning Proof of Concept innovation and entrepreneurship centers. To register, email i6@eda.gov with your name, title, organization, e-mail address, telephone number, and the date of the conference call you plan to join. Calls are at the following times (all ET):

- June 27, 2:00 pm: General Applicant Webinar (WebEx and Phone Details [HERE](#))
- June 27, 4:00 pm: Dr. Desh Deshpande, Founder, Deshpande Foundation (Information [HERE](#))

Addressing Solar Myths and Misconceptions

June 28, 2012, 2:00pm- 3:00pm EDT:

Surveys indicate that 90% of Americans think that it's important to support the development of solar power. As more and more local governments and individuals look to develop and support solar power installations on their homes and communities, it is important to be able to address questions and concerns about solar power technologies. In addition, there are many myths and misconceptions about solar technologies that often need to be addressed. This webinar seeks to facilitate discussion and to provide concrete examples of methods to overcome the myths surrounding solar technologies for local governments. To register, click [HERE](#).

NARC's Transportation Webinar

July 10, 2012, 12:00-2:00pm ET

NARC's next Transportation Committee webinar is scheduled; NARC and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will discuss their recently released report on transit in nonmetropolitan regions. While the agenda is yet to be released, you can Click [HERE](#) to register early and HERE for more information.

NLC and FHWA Webinar on TIFIA

July 11, 2012, 1:30-3:30 pm ET

The National League of Cities (NLC) and Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Office of Innovative Program Delivery is pleased to host a webinar on the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) program. This webinar will help city, county and public transportation leader's gain an understanding of innovative financing techniques used to construct large infrastructure projects. This webinar will provide an executive overview of TIFIA Federal Credit Assistance program, whose objective is to leverage Federal transportation funding to attract private investment to the U.S. surface transportation sector. After successfully completing this webinar participants will understand the benefits of federal credit assistance and the intricacies of securing this funding to build needed infrastructure. There is no cost to participate in this webinar and it is open to everyone who is interested. You must register in advance, click [HERE](#), to reserve your connection for this webinar. For more information, contact Thay Bishop of the Innovative Program Delivery Office at 404-562-3695 or thay.bishop@dot.gov.

Regional Collaborative Procurement for Solar PV Webinar

July 12, 2012 3:00-4:00pm ET

NARC is hosting a webinar on regional collaborative procurement. This webinar will discuss how through collaborative procurement, communities can reduce the up-front costs of solar installations by working together as a group to evaluate project sites, procure solar systems and negotiate contracts, thus yielding much lower transaction costs for each individual partner. Learn about the techniques used to establish a successful collaborative procurement process and how it can be replicated in your region. Speakers include Tyler Espinoza, Project Manager, Optony Inc.; Blaine Collison, Director, U.S. EPA Green Power Partnership; and Jeff King, Principal Environmental Planner, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. Click [HERE](#) to register. For questions about the webinar, please email Mia Colson at Mia@NARC.org.

Addressing Soft Costs and Barriers to Solar in Your Community Workshop

July 18, 2012, 8:30am-12:30pm EDT, Pittsburgh, PA

This interactive workshop, presented by [the SunShot Solar Outreach Partnership](#), will provide actionable information on overcoming local-level barriers to solar, addressing soft costs, and implementing a successful local solar program. Areas of focus will include: 1) revising

zoning codes and ordinances to allow for solar; 2) streamlining permitting processes to facilitate solar installations; 3) financing solar projects; and 4) installing solar on municipal and other community facilities. Case study examples will highlight successful practices and lessons learned from communities that have undertaken solar projects in these focus areas. To register, [click HERE](#).

13th National Tools of the Trade Conference

September 12 - 14, 2012, Big Sky, MT

Join transportation professionals from around the country to network, share ideas, and learn about the latest developments and opportunities for transportation planning in small and medium sized communities.

Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

2012 Ohio Conference on Freight

September 13-14, 2012, Sandusky, OH

Save the Date! The Ohio Conference on Freight is a highly regarded forum featuring experts in all modes of freight transportation. It focuses on the development of freight-related economic opportunity within Ohio and its surrounding states and the wider Great Lakes region, including Canada. Click [HERE](#) to access the conference website; registration will open on June 27, 2012.

2012 Executive Directors' Conference

September 24-26, 2012, Boise, ID

Save the Date! Join Executive Directors and senior staff of regional councils and metropolitan planning organizations at this premier regional training event. Registration information and an agenda will be available in mid 2012.

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