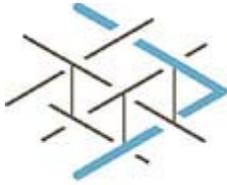


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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XIII, No. 24, July 1, 2013

eRegions

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

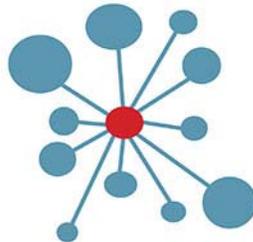
Thank you for attending our 47th Annual Conference and Exhibition in Philadelphia, PA. Hundreds of practitioners, regional leaders, and partners met to discuss and learn how to promote regional economic competitiveness. Our hosts, the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, held a great event and worked with us to make the conference a success. We elected our new governing Board of Directors and Executive Directors Council, and recognized regional leaders and great projects through our annual programs and leadership awards. Sponsors from the region and our national

Have a Safe and Happy 4th of July!

PROGRAM UPDATE POLICY UPDATE

MEMBER 360

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES UPCOMING EVENTS



converge ■ learn ■ share

***executive directors' conference
september 30 - october 1, 2013
santa monica, ca***

Registration Information

Click [HERE](#) to register for the conference.

The event begins Monday, September 29, 2013 at 8:00 am and concludes Wednesday, October 2, 2013 at 11:00 am.

The NARC Executive Directors Council meeting will be held from 12:00 – 1:00 pm on Wednesday, October 2nd.

Agenda Information

A draft agenda will be released soon.

Sessions may include:

The 21st Century Workplace; Managing and Engaging Your Board; Flexible Federalism; Collaborative Leadership; Retaining, Recruiting

partners also stepped up to support regionalism. Next year, we meet in Louisville, KY!

However, our executive directors and senior staff members are encouraged to come to Santa Monica from September 29 – October 2 to meet, learn and share at our Executive Directors Conference – the premier event for senior staff from regional planning organizations to hone and build their professional and organizational capacity. This year the Southern California Association of Governments is our host.

Again, thank you for your continued support!
Fred

NARCLEADERSHIP

President

Hon. Penny Gross

Supervisor,
Fairfax County, VA

Chair Jim Hassinger,

Executive Directors Council
Executive Director,
Southwestern Pennsylvania
Commission

NARCSTAFF

Fred Abousleman

Executive Director

and Maintaining a High-Performing Professional Staff;
Where the Rubber Meets the Road – Engaging Your State Legislature

PROGRAMUPDATE

New Solar Resources: NARC is working to increase the use and integration of solar energy technology in regions across the nation, as part of the U.S. Department of Energy's SunShot Solar Outreach Partnership. NARC has created new regional solar resources to assist regions in accelerating solar energy adoption in their communities, including podcasts, webinars and case studies. Check out NARC's latest solar resources [HERE](#).

POLICYUPDATE

Congress is on recess for the July 4th holiday.

Appropriations Update: Last week the House and Senate Appropriations Committees approved FY14 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (T-HUD) spending bills. The Senate provided \$54.4B and the House provided \$44.1B respectively. The following are details on key programs:

- Community Development Block Grants (CDBG): \$1.6B House (nearly a 50% cut); \$3.15B Senate
- Highway: \$40.256B House and Senate (at MAP-21 levels)
- Mass Transit: \$8.6B House and Senate for formula grants (at MAP-21 levels); Capital grants funded at \$2.006B Senate and \$1.817B House
- Airport Improvement Program: \$3.350B House and Senate
- Essential Air Service: \$246M Senate; \$216M House
- Amtrak (operating and capital funds): \$1.452B Senate; \$950M House
- Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER): \$550M Senate; no funding House and rescinds \$200M from FY13
- Sustainable Communities: Under the community development fund, the Senate provides \$75M for Integrated Planning and

Shannon Baxevanis

Deputy Director

Autumn Campbell

Director of Community

Programs

Mia Colson

Program Analyst

Bridget Gribbin

Intern

Lindsey Riley

Deputy of Communications

Anna Rosenbaum

Intern

Erika Young

Transportation Director

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

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

Investment Grants “to support local and regional public investment plans and implementation efforts...”

MEMBER360

ARC Releases Health Data Video: The Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) recently released a video explaining health data in their region and how it is being incorporated into their transportation planning. Click [HERE](#) to access the video.

CMAP Paper Featured in Logistics journal: The *International Journal of Logistics Systems and Management* recently featured a **paper** co-authored by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency of Planning’s (CMAP) Claire Bozic, which suggests one way to ease traffic congestion is to add lanes to existing roads, add new roads and/or improve intersections. Click [HERE](#) to access the paper.

Want your organization to be featured here? [Let us know](#).

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

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](#).

Retirement Research Foundation

Letters of Inquiry Due: July 11, 2013; Deadline to Apply: August 1, 2013

Retirement Research Foundation is accepting applications for projects to improve the lives of aging Americans. Support is available to nonprofit organizations for research, advocacy, training, and other efforts designed to improve the lives of older adults, and to nonprofit organizations in seven states for direct service programs for the elderly. Projects and the organizations leading them must have a local focus on communities in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Missouri, Wisconsin, or Florida. However, advocacy, training, and research projects of national relevance are considered from organizations located anywhere in the United States. Click [HERE](#) for an application and guidelines.

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.

Lowe's

Deadline to Apply: July 30, 2013

Lowe's is offering grants from \$5,000 to \$100,000 to nonprofits and municipalities looking for support of high-need projects such as: building renovations/upgrades, grounds improvements, technology

upgrades as well as safety improvements. To learn more about this program and to apply, click [HERE](#).

The Plum Creek Foundation

Deadline to Apply: July 31, 2013 – October 31, 2013

The Plum Creek Foundation provides support for community-based nonprofit organizations that work to improve the general welfare and quality of life in the communities that Plum Creek serves in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Texas, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. The Foundation's areas of interest include community services, education, environment, and the arts. Go to the company's website [HERE](#) to review the grant guidelines and download the application form.

The Heinz Endowments

Deadline to Apply: August 1, 2013

The Heinz Endowments are offering grants in five program areas: arts & culture, children, youth & families, education, environment, and community & economic development. To review the organization's guidelines, click [HERE](#).

Walmart Foundation

Deadline to Apply: August 9, 2013

Walmart Foundation is offering grants to nonprofits in all 50 states, Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico for programs in education, workforce development, environmental sustainability, health, and hunger relief. Grants range from \$25,000 to \$250,000. To learn more about the Foundation and these grants, click [HERE](#).

The U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development

Administration: Funding Cycle 1 of 2014

Deadline to Apply: September 13, 2013

The Economic Development Administration is offering grants for the Funding Cycle 1 of 2014. Grants made under these programs are designed to leverage existing regional assets to support the implementation of economic development strategies that advance new ideas and creative approaches to increase economic prosperity in distressed communities. Eligible: nonprofits, governments, Native American governments, public institutions of higher learning and others. For more information, click [HERE](#).

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](#).

Office Depot Foundation

Application Deadline: May 1 – October 31, 2013

The Office Depot Foundation is offering grant support to nonprofit organizations, government agencies, libraries, and schools that bring systemic change to the communities they serve. The Foundation provides grants averaging \$1,000 in three distinct categories. The focus of the "Giving Children Tools for Success" category is on activities that give young people tools to succeed in school and in life through education and inspiration. The "Building Capacity to Serve Communities" category targets programs that help nonprofit organizations to serve the needs of their communities efficiently. The purpose of the "Disaster Preparedness, Relief, Recovery, and Rebuilding" category is to support efforts that help people and communities prepare for disasters and rebuild and recover when disasters occur. Applications will be accepted from May 1 through October 31, 2013. Visit the Foundation's website [HERE](#) to review the guidelines.

UPCOMINGEVENTS

Smart Off-Grid Lighting and Security Webinar

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

Over the past decade there have been significant advancements in off-grid lighting and security in terms of reliability and cost reduction. Now we are entering the age of "Smart Off-Grid", combining green energy with advanced cloud-based software that enables the remote monitoring, management and control of off-grid lighting. This brings off-grid lighting and security to an unprecedented level of reliability and manageability. Clear Blue Technologies joins the National Association

of Regional Councils (NARC) to explain and demonstrate how this technology works and the value it brings, using real case studies and examples. Learn why regions and local governments are installing Off-Grid solar systems in their communities. To register, click [HERE](#).

2013 Ohio Conference on Freight

September 12-13, 2013, Sandusky, OH

SAVE THE DATE! Additional information will be released soon.

NARC's Executive Directors' Conference

September 29-October 2, 2013, Santa Monica, CA

Join the Southern California Association of Governments and NARC for the 2013 Executive Directors' Conference in Santa Monica, CA. Executive Directors and Senior Staff are invited to meet with experts, network with your colleagues, and share best practices in management, programs, finance, budget, governance and other issues of importance to you. Click [HERE](#) to visit the conference website.

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