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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

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eRegions

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

Welcome to the new and returning NARC Board of Directors and Executive Directors Council members. NARC has an excellent two tier system of governing that brings “day-to-day” management experience and high level policy decision making together to strengthen the association. Our network of executive directors of regions of all sizes and from across the country (the Executive Directors Council) advise our governing board of elected and appointed officials (the Board of Directors). Both the Board and the Council interact on program and policy, ensuring that the needs of our member

PROGRAM UPDATE POLICY UPDATE

MEMBER 360

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES UPCOMING EVENTS



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

metropolitan planning organizations and councils of governments and the local governments they represent are considered within the Association.

Considering policy – *Politico* has released an excellent piece on the slow burn of the sequester. *We have been reporting for over a year that the biggest impact of the sequester will be in the out years when federal agencies have exhausted all their options to address funding cuts.* Additional details are in our policy update, but you can read the story [HERE](#).

Executive directors register for your training conference [HERE](#)! This is an excellent opportunity for you to meet your peers and share your success. We are in Santa Monica and hosted by the Southern California Association of Governments.

See you in California,
Fred

NARC LEADERSHIP

President
Hon. Penny Gross
Supervisor,
Fairfax County, VA

PROGRAM UPDATE

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](#).

POLICY UPDATE

Next Steps on Farm Bill Reauthorization Remain Unclear: Leaders in the House continue to grapple with what to do next after the Farm Bill's failure on the floor last month. The path toward long-term reauthorization for the law, which expired last year and was temporarily extended in January, evades lawmakers who are dealing with conservative coalitions calling for splitting the nutrition program from the overall measure and farm industry groups urging leaders to keep the bill intact. If the House can't pass a measure before the temporary reauthorization expires in October, another short-term extension may be on the horizon.

***Politico* releases an excellent report on the effect the sequester is having on communities and states.** "The sequester's long slow burn" brings into perspective the severe and overlooked cuts that will take place within federal programs over the next nine years. As NARC has often reported, it is imperative to repeal the sequester before communities lose the momentum they are gaining in the economic recovery. Click [HERE](#) to read the article.

MEMBER 360

MWCOG Releases Climate Change Adaptation Report: The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG), Washington, DC, released their climate change adaptation report for the region. The report serves to not only identify the direct effects of climate change, but also to advance a dialogue for local resiliency plans in the region. Click [HERE](#) to access a copy of the report and additional information.

Chair Jim Hassinger,
Executive Directors Council
Executive Director,
Southwestern Pennsylvania
Commission

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GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

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; Deadline to Apply: August 1

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.

Lows'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](#).

USDA – Rural Housing Service

Deadline: August 2, 2013

The Rural Housing Service (RHS) announces that it is soliciting applications under its Housing Preservation Grant (HPG) program. The HPG program is a grant program which provides qualified public agencies, private nonprofit organizations grant funds to assist very low- and low-income homeowners in repairing and rehabilitating their homes in rural areas. More information is available [HERE](#).

Department of Housing and Urban Development

Deadline: August 7, 2013

HUD has announced \$4.5 million in capacity building grants for the Sustainable Communities program. HUD is seeking applications from consortia that demonstrate significant knowledge, skills, and experience in community planning efforts and have a cohesive plan for assisting the HUD Sustainable Communities grantees. More information on this opportunity is available [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](#).

USDA – Rural Utilities Service

Deadline: August 12, 2013

USDA has funding availability for the Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Grant Program. This program is aimed at providing access to education, training and healthcare resources in rural areas. Funds can be used to buy equipment and provide technical assistance. To be eligible, applicants must serve a rural area, demonstrate economic need and provide at least 15 percent in matching funds. More information is available [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. Click [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](#).

HUD Public Information Webinar for \$4.5 Million NOFA

July 16, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

HUD announced a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for \$4.5 million in capacity building grants for the Sustainable Communities program. Please join us for a public information webinar, July 16, 2 to 3pm ET. Registration information to follow. Questions may be submitted in advance to: Dwayne.S.Marsh@hud.gov, which will be used to help shape the agenda. Please note, we may not be able to answer all pre-submitted questions during the Webinar. View the NOFA [HERE](#) and the general NOFA policy requirements [HERE](#).

2013 Ohio Conference on Freight

September 12-13, 2013, Sandusky, OH

Workshops, tour, and presentations will address the use of innovation in changing how we transport goods, design, fund and deliver infrastructure, and make policy. A full conference schedule will earn 10 hours of professional education credits. Credit for economic development professional (CEcD) is being explored. Click [HERE](#) to visit the conference website.

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](#) for more information.

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