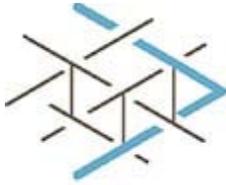


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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XIII, No. 26, July 15, 2013

eRegions

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

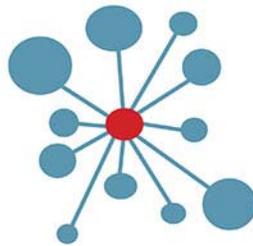
Colleagues,

NARC President Penny Gross met with the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Intergovernmental Affairs staff today at the NARC office and discussed our priorities for the rest of the year and areas of collaboration on regional resilience, preparedness and recovery. Later this week, President Gross travels to Fort Worth, TX for the National Association of Counties' (NACo) Annual Meeting. NARC Director of Community Programs, Autumn Campbell, will be with her and also staffing the U.S. Department of Energy's SolarOPs booth as part of our solar collaborative project. Stop

[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

by and see her if you are at NACo. Transportation Director Erika Young travels to Muskegon, MI Thursday for a Michigan statewide Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting to discuss MAP-21 Implementation. I'm speaking at the Building One America Summit in D.C. on Thursday on a panel with NARC's National League of Cities' Board Appointee Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers.

Otherwise, your NARC staff is engaged in monitoring congressional activity, finalizing projects, and preparing for the Executive Directors' Training Conference and Fall Board Retreat this fall.

Fred

NARC LEADERSHIP

President

Hon. Penny Gross

Supervisor,
Fairfax County, VA

Chair Jim Hassinger,

Executive Directors Council
Executive Director,
Southwestern Pennsylvania
Commission

NARC STAFF

Fred Abousleman

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

Congress is in session.

NARC Releases Summary of President's Climate Action Plan: On June 25, 2013, President Obama released his *Climate Action Plan* pledging a commitment to build sustainable long-term goals for a greener infrastructure that is prepared for extreme weather events and healthier living. In this plan, the President announces a series of executive actions that address carbon pollution, climate change impact, and international collaboration. Click [HERE](#) to access NARC's summary of the *Climate Action Plan*.

Appropriations Update: Congress continues to work on the FY14 appropriations bills. This week, the House Appropriations Committee is scheduled to take up the Commerce-Justice-Science (CJS) and Financial Services bills, while the Senate Appropriations subcommittees work on CJS and Homeland Security respectively. To date, no bills have been conferenced and only the Energy and Water, Military/Veterans, and Homeland Security appropriations bills have been passed out of the House; the Senate has yet to pass any full measures.

Farm Bill Update: Last week the House passed a farm bill measure by a vote of 208-216; it contained only the farm policy portion of the previously failed Farm Bill and removed the nutrition provisions. Passing this portion should allow the House and Senate to begin conference negotiations. Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Stabenow said on a conference call today with stakeholders that there is, "no reason to wait or delay the process anymore." She noted that

Executive Director

[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

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Senate leaders are eager to bring the measure to conference. Senator Stabenow also indicated that she would not support an extension if a measure fails to pass before the current temporary authorization expires this fall. More information on the Farm Bill is available [HERE](#).

NARC Supports Funding for ARC: Last week there was an attempt on the House floor during debate of FY14 Energy and Water Development appropriations to zero-out funding for the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and other regional commissions. NARC joined industry colleagues, Appropriations Chairman Hal Rogers, and several other key Members to oppose and ultimately defeat the proposal in a bipartisan vote of 237-147. ARC is a vital partner for local and regional technical assistance, training, research and implementation in areas such as infrastructure, education and workforce.

MEMBER360

CMAP Releases Climate Adaptation Toolkit. To help mitigate climate change, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning's (CMAP) *GO TO 2040* comprehensive regional plan recommends important local steps such as improving energy efficiency and encouraging the use of low-carbon transportation alternatives that include walking, biking, and transit. While reducing emissions is critical to limit climate change, CMAP also advises to prepare for its impacts. CMAP's *Local Ordinances and Toolkits* program has created a new resource at www.cmap.illinois.gov/climate-adaptation to help local municipalities adjust their planning and investment decisions to address future weather impacts.

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

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

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.

Retirement Research Foundation

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.

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

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](#).

GI 201: Implementing Green Infrastructure at Multiple Scales

September 9-12, 2013, Shepherdstown, WV

This advanced course provides participants with applications and techniques for the implementation of green infrastructure at multiple scales. Building off the GI 101 Course: *Strategic Conservation Planning Using a Green Infrastructure Approach*, this course will explore the next steps for on-the-ground implementation of green infrastructure, focusing on how to obtain a maximum return-on-investment from projects that are streamlined and delivered at least cost, and that retain the viability of the network. *Who should attend:* This advanced course is designed to be a collaborative learning

experience for entities involved in the implementation of green infrastructure networks. Professionals should be well versed in the concepts and principles of green infrastructure; this course will be applicable to individuals from a variety of disciplines, sectors, and scales. Completion of TCF's GI 101 Course (Strategic Conservation Planning Using a Green Infrastructure Approach) is recommended, but not required, as a prerequisite to attend the course. Application Deadline: August 9, 2013. Course cost: \$600.

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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