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**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS**

VOL. XIII, No. 27, July 22, 2013

**eRegions**

## **EXECUTIVE BRIEF**

Colleagues,

We've released our latest research report on federal spending in partnership with American University (AU), available [HERE](#). In it you will find related activity by core federal program and data that supports continued support of these activities. As we gear up for a second round of sequester cuts, this report is telling on the effectiveness of programs given a marginal amount of allocated federal resources, and the fragility of the programs and those they serve if subject to further cuts.

Six Senators are critical to increased funding in

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*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 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

the Transportation-Housing and Urban Development (THUD) bill (S 1243) that contains about \$10 billion more in spending than the House version (HR 2610). The Senate measure proposes significantly more funding for Amtrak, community development block grants, and certain housing programs, as well as for infrastructure projects, known as TIGER grants. NARC is working to support the measure being brought to the floor.

I hope to see many of you in Santa Monica for your Executive Directors' Training Conference. We have a great agenda (to be released this week) with discussions on the 21st century workforce, managing our organizations for sustainability, critical communications and other great topics. Register now!

Fred

## **NARC**LEADERSHIP

**President**  
**Hon. Penny Gross**  
Supervisor,  
Fairfax County, VA

## **PROGRAM**UPDATE

### **NARC and American University Publish Report on Federal Programs' Regional Value and Return on Investment:**

NARC collaborated with American University graduate students to analyze funding trends for six federal programs and examine the regional impact and value of the programs. This report, *Impact Evaluation: The Regional Value and Return on Investment of Six Federal Programs*, provides qualitative and quantitative analyses to ascertain the regional value and impact of the six federal programs. Findings provide NARC with a criteria-driven assessment of the regional need for these programs.

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## **POLICY**UPDATE

*Congress is in session.*

**Gina McCarthy Confirmed as EPA Administrator:** On July 18th, the Senate voted to approve McCarthy as the new Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In light of President Obama's recent Climate Action Plan, McCarthy will be tasked with leading the EPA as it promulgates carbon dioxide emissions standards from existing power plants. Learn more about McCarthy's appointment [HERE](#).

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## **MEMBER**360

**NARC Member CMAP in Washington, DC:** Last week, Randy Blankenhorn, Executive Director of the Chicago Metropolitan Planning Agency (CMAP), presented at the Building One America Summit. CMAP's Deputy Director, Don Kopec, also presented at a U.S. House of Representatives Transportation and Infrastructure Roundtable on Freight.

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## **PARTNER**UPDATE

**EPA's Urban Water Restoration Video Series:** The EPA's Urban Waters Voices is a series of video interviews featuring locally led efforts to restore urban waters in communities across the nation. Check out the videos, [HERE](#).

**Vibrant Communities Communications Toolkit:** The Sustainable

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

### **NARCSTAFF**

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To access past issues  
of *eRegions*, **visit our**  
**website.**

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homepage —  
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Urban Forests Coalition (SUFC) has developed an online resource center and communications toolkit to assist communities discuss and understand urban forestry issues. Check out the online tool **HERE.**

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## **MEMBER ASSISTANCE REQUEST**

**Council Governance Structure:** The Aquidneck Island Planning Commission is looking to reframe its governance structure in the Narragansett Bay area of Rhode Island. The Planning Commission, which represents only one city and two towns, is looking for information on how other regional councils and planning organizations in peer regions around the country are organized and governed. Specifically, they are looking for guidance on how community and area business leaders and stakeholders are engaged in the community planning process. It would be especially helpful to hear from councils of relatively small size, like their own. If your organization can provide any information, the Planning Commission would like to hear from you. Please forward any examples you can to Lindsey Riley, **lindsey@narc.org.**

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## **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.

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## UPCOMINGEVENTS

### ***Innovation and Success in Planning and Zoning***

**July 24, 2:00-3:00pm ET**

Join the SunShot Initiative and the Solar Outreach Partnership to learn about several successful initiatives to implement solar friendly zoning codes and update building codes to better accommodate solar planning and development. To register, click [HERE](#).

### ***STATS America Webinar: U.S. EDA and NADO Webinar***

**July 25, 2:00-3:15pm ET**

The webinar will be conducted by Brian Kelsey of the NADO Research Foundation, who will illustrate not only the types of data available, but how they can be used in various aspects of economic development planning. The STATS America data tools, for example, can help measure distress at the county, region, or neighborhood level, and may be very useful in your project review and management processes. **To register for the webinar, click [HERE](#).**

### ***New Webinar Series to Help Transportation Agencies Enhance Their Projects***

**August 2013**

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) are sponsoring a webinar series on how transportation agencies can save lives, money and time with innovations that address critical challenges, such as aging infrastructure, congestion and safety. Learn more about the webinar series [HERE](#).

### ***Innovation and Success in Solar Net Metering and Interconnection***

**August 7, 2:00-3:00pm ET**

This free webinar sponsored by the SunShot Initiative and the Solar Outreach Partnership will showcase the latest development in solar net metering and interconnection. To register, click [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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