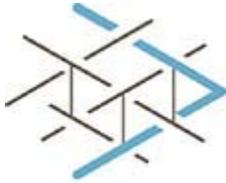


Email not displaying correctly? Click [HERE](#) to view it as a PDF.



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS**

VOL. XIII, No. 28, July 29, 2013

**eRegions**

**EXECUTIVE BRIEF**

Colleagues,

Erika Young, our Transportation Director, will be leaving NARC at the end of the week.

Erika has been with us close to six years, and in that time helped build a national transportation advocacy and technical assistance program. She's traveled to many of your events, spoken on transportation issues at many of your meetings, and provided timely updates on transportation related issues. Please take a moment to thank her for all she has done at NARC.

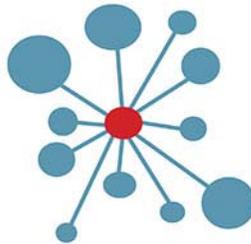
I will keep you posted on the position. In the meantime, please refer

[PROGRAM UPDATE](#) [POLICY UPDATE](#)

[MEMBER ASSISTANCE REQUEST](#)

[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 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

any questions you have to me and I'll make sure our staff assists promptly.

Thank you,  
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**

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

## **PROGRAM UPDATE**

**EPA Public Engagement Session:** The U.S. Environment Protection Agency (EPA) will hold a special Public Engagement Session on Tuesday, July 30th at 11:00 am ET with the U.S. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy. She will discuss her plan forward for the agency. Click [HERE](#) to watch it live.

## **POLICY UPDATE**

*Congress is in session.*

**Several Reauthorizations Pending until Post Recess:** Congress will likely break for the August District Work Period before several outstanding reauthorization measures are completed, including the Farm Bill, Workforce Investment Act and the Older Americans Act. While Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Stabenow has appointed conferees, the House has yet to officially enter into conference negotiations on the measure. Majority Leader Cantor said last week he would wait to do so until the Chamber considers the nutrition title stripped out of the measure earlier this month. The House and Senate will begin informal discussions on a compromise in August. Senate Health, Education Labor and Pensions Committee members will also continue negotiations on both the Older Americans Act and Workforce Investment Act reauthorization in the next month. Committee leaders had initially hoped to consider both proposals before the summer break.

### **Older Americans Act Update - Committee Working on Bipartisan Compromise Bill; Members Requesting Help During August Recess:**

In May, Senator Bernie Sanders released a legislation to reauthorize the Older Americans Act, which expired in 2011. The subcommittee quickly moved to hold hearings on the legislation in June. Currently, Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions committee members are working on a bipartisan compromise proposal for mark-up after the August recess. Committee staff members have reached out to NARC to request that Regional Councils who work with Older Americans Act delivery service areas in your regions reach out to your Congressional Delegations during the August recess to possibly coordinate visits to these sites. The August recess is a particularly good time to connect with your Members and invite them to see, first hand, the

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

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

importance of OAA programs and discuss some of the devastating effects of significant funding cuts under sequestration. More information on the OAA reauthorization effort is available [HERE](#). Please reach out to us if you need assistance on contacting your Members of Congress.

---

## MEMBER360

**COMPASS Receives ESRI Award for GIS Work:** The Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) received a Special Achievement in GIS (SAG) award for its *Communities in Motion 2040 Vision* at the Esri International User Conference in San Diego, CA, on July 10, 2013. This award acknowledges vision, leadership, hard work, and innovative use of Esri's geographic information system (GIS) technology. COMPASS updates *Communities in Motion* (CIM), the regional long-range transportation plan for Ada and Canyon Counties, every four years and is currently working on an update to plan to the year 2040, which will be complete by September 2014. For more information on the *Communities in Motion 2040 Vision*, click [HERE](#).

**GRADD Receives Funding for AmeriCorps Work and Senior Connections Program:** Green River Area Development District (GRADD) was awarded \$453,250 in federal grant money to fund 35 AmeriCorps program member slots in Daviess, Hancock, McLean, Ohio, Union and Webster counties. GRADD was notified in early July by the Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service (KCCVS) that their Senior Connections program will receive a grant for 25 volunteers and their new Disaster Services program will receive a grant for 10 volunteers. Since 1997, GRADD's Senior Connections program has partnered with local agencies to provide services and counseling to low-income, at-risk senior citizens to improve their quality of life and help them remain independent. For more information, click [HERE](#).

**MAPA Launches Successful New Bus Program to Reduce Emissions during Ozone Awareness Days:** The Metropolitan Area Planning Agency's new program, *Little Steps, Big Impact, Ozone Awareness Days* is in full swing with the first week of reduced bus fare days beginning on June 10-13. Metro area bus ridership increased by over 18 percent during the first week of the campaign with an estimated 70,000 riders, an increase of about 11,000 riders from the previous week. The Ozone Awareness Days continued from July 15-18 and will occur again from August 12-15. During the four-day periods reduced bus

fares of 50 cents per ride are offered to the public to encourage the use of public transportation options and reduce emissions. For more information on this program, click [HERE](#).

---

## 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](mailto:lindsey@narc.org).

---

## 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. For more information, 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](#).

**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](#).

**Department of Homeland Security – FEMA**

*Deadline: August 16, 2013*

FY 2013 Continuing Training Grants (CTG) funds are available to develop and deliver innovative training programs that are national in scope and meet emerging training needs in our Nation's communities. Where possible, efforts should be made in to develop and deliver training programs to address priorities from the National Preparedness Report and Capability Estimation Process. 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

### ***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.

***ICMA Webinar: Urban Stormwater and MS4 Compliance***

**September 10, 1:00 pm ET**

Has your community effectively addressed urban stormwater – a major impairment to water quality that continues to hamper efforts to comply with Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permits? ICMA and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are hosting a 90-minute webinar to explain common problems that inspectors encounter, along with examples of how operators have overcome them. Click [HERE](#) to register for this webinar.

***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.

***NARC's 2014 National Conference of Regions***

**February 16-18, 2014, Washington, DC**

The National Conference of Regions is the forum that NARC uses to determine key policy issues and a legislative agenda on topics of

relevance and importance to executive directors and local elected officials representing regional organizations and boards. Additional information will be available in late 2013.

***NARC's 48th Annual Conference and Exhibition***

**June 6-11, 2014, Louisville, KY**

The Annual Conference and Exhibition is the largest national event focused on promoting effective regional cooperation and solutions through interaction and education. Held annually in June, NARC's Annual Conference is the premier place to learn how to engage in effective regional collaboration. Additional information will be available in early 2014.

We are sending you this email primarily for your information, to meet your needs, further our valued relationship and because you requested to receive electronic newsletters from the National Association of Regional Councils. Please forward as appropriate.

[Unsubscribe](#) [lindsey@narc.org](mailto:lindsey@narc.org) from this list.

Our mailing address is:  
National Association of Regional Councils  
777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 305  
Washington, DC 20002

[Add us to your address book](#)

Copyright (C) 2013 National Association of Regional Councils All rights reserved.

[Forward](#) this email to a friend

[Update your profile](#)