

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



## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XIII, No. 29, August 5, 2013

# eRegions

### **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

**Shannon Baxevanis**

Deputy Director

**Autumn Campbell**

Director of Community  
Programs

**Mia Colson**

Program Analyst

**Bridget Gribbin**

Intern

**Lindsey Riley**

Deputy of Communications

**PROGRAM UPDATE** **POLICY UPDATE**

**MEMBER 360**

**GRANT OPPORTUNITIES** **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **EXECUTIVE BRIEF**

Colleagues,

Congress is on recess for the next five weeks and has left almost everything on the table for their return when they are expected to take up a big fight on the debt ceiling. The T-HUD, Farm, and other appropriations bills are still unresolved. Legislative days from September through December are few and far between and to tie up government funding into repealing the Affordable Care Act and the Debt Ceiling debate does not leave much room for anything else. And while there is a renewed call for sequester repeal the chances of our programs not taking another cut is low.

*NARC Staff has weighed in on every opportunity to move regional and local programs forward – from rural development in the farm bill to funding guarantees for transportation in T-HUD. We encourage you to take the August recess when your members of Congress are back home and meet with them to discuss your critical issues – from the sequester to older Americans, workforce, transportation and development.*

**Anna Rosenbaum**

Intern

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

Make NARC your homepage — **click here to learn how.**

We have four weeks to make a homegrown impact and the resources you need are all on the NARC website. From talking points to academic reports – your Staff has prepared tools to help make the conversation easier. Otherwise – call us and we can help with information. Go to town hall meetings, meet in district offices, and show off your regional transportation projects, workforce centers, meals-on wheels, community centers, etc. Then, tell us if you had meetings and what the outcomes were, so we can follow up once Congress returns to Washington.

Until then,  
Fred



**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

---

**PROGRAMUPDATE**

**NARC releases 2nd edition of Regional Solar Handbook: Last**

week NARC announced the release of its 2nd version of its Regional Solar Handbook & Resource Guide. The *Guide* is written for regional planning organizations to learn how they can play a key role in moving solar energy deployment forward in their region. Click [HERE](#) to access the *Guide*.

**Upcoming Regional Solar Workshops:** NARC is hosting free interactive workshops that provide regions with actionable information on creating a local-level solar program. Find out if NARC is coming to a city near you! Click [HERE](#) for more information.

- *Oklahoma City, OK:* August 22, 2013
- *Southern Vermont:* September 6, 2013
- *Minneapolis, MN:* September 10, 2013
- *Boston, MA:* September 26, 2013

**EPA Proposes Rule to Modernize Clean Water Act Reporting:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed a rule that would modernize Clean Water Act reporting processes for municipalities by converting to an electric data reporting system. Find out more about the proposed e-reporting rule [HERE](#).

---

## POLICYUPDATE

*Congress is in recess.*

### **Senate Committee Marks up Workforce Investment Act**

**Reauthorization:** Last week the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee considered and broadly approved, by a vote of 18-3, a bill to reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), S 1356. The bill is now slated for full chamber consideration, which may not happen this fall due to budget debates and spending bills. The Senate measure greatly contrasts the bill the House passed in March. Senate leaders kept intact local governance of workforce programs and were conservative on consolidation efforts. More information on both measures and resources for membership to use in discussions with your Senators will be available soon.

---

## MEMBER360

**AACOG Hosts Demonstration of New Roadway Design:** On July

18th, Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) held the first demonstration in Texas of a new roadway design called Mechanical Concrete®. It involves using the sidewalls of scrapped, used auto tires. This process is a major breakthrough in aggregate confinement technology that produces a simpler, stronger, more economical method for confining and strengthening aggregates and soils. Mechanical Concrete® is an example of sustainable green construction that creates a virtually indestructible base, essentially eliminating most road maintenance problems (like potholes, ruts, and shoulder erosion), making it an economical and resourceful solution. Additionally, this design provides an opportunity for counties to reuse the thousands of tires that are regularly discarded along county roads.

**TMACOG Gas Cap Replacement Program:** On August 1st, Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) and The City of Toledo Division of Environmental Services held the first of two events where motorists can drive up and have their gas cap checked for emission leakages. In the event that a gas cap is deemed leaky, they replace it free of charge. This effort, as well as similar programs across the country, exists to reduce emissions that cause ozone pollution.

---

## 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.

### **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](#).

### **EPA Accepting Applications for Clean Air Award Program**

*Applications Due: September 27, 2013*

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is accepting applications for its [Clean Air Excellence Awards](#) through September 27, 2013. This award honors outstanding and innovative efforts to help make progress toward achieving cleaner air. Award-winning entries must directly or indirectly reduce pollutant emissions, demonstrate innovation, offer sustainable outcomes and provide a model for others to follow. [Past winners](#) include the City and County of Greenville, SC; the Maricopa County Air Quality Department; the Metropolitan Transportation Commission; and many others. You can apply [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

## ***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](#).

## ***NARC 101: Webinar for New Executive Directors and Senior Staff***

**August 21, 2013, 1:00 - 2:00pm ET**

Over the last couple of years, NARC has seen a large number of Executive Directors and Senior Staff of its regional council and metropolitan planning organizations retire, leaving vacancies for new Executive Directors to fill these roles. Some of these new Executive Directors are from within the industry, while other Executive Directors come from outside of the regional council world. No matter what your background is, your NARC staff and Executive Directors Council and leadership would like to introduce your Association to you. This webinar is open to NARC members only. Click [HERE](#) to register.

## ***Transportation Planning Information Exchange Webinar***

**August 22, 2013, 1:00 – 2:30pm ET**

The Transportation Planning Excellence Awards (TPEA) Program recognizes outstanding projects from across the country that develop, plan, and implement innovative transportation planning practices. Sponsored by the FHWA Office of Planning and FTA Office of Planning and Environment, this webinar is the second in a series of three webinars, which will focus on 2012 TPEA Program recipients. The three featured recipients are: (1) Fast Forward Transit Plan Mobile Outreach Bus in the Tulsa, Oklahoma region; (2) Georgia Statewide Freight and Logistics Plan; and the (3) Holyoke Multi-modal Transportation Center (HMTc) Project in Massachusetts. To register, click [HERE](#).

## ***ICMA Webinar: Getting a Grip on GASB and Pension Funding***

**August 28, 1:00-2:30 p.m. ET**

New pension reporting standards from the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) are creating confusion. As local governments struggle to understand and implement changes, some credit reporting agencies have announced that they have yet another way to calculate

pension obligations to determine a government's credit worthiness. To guide local and state leaders, ICMA and ten other national organizations representing the nation's governors, state legislatures, state and local officials, and public finance professionals, created the Pension Funding Task Force. The task force's findings are in, and ICMA is conducting a webinar to explain its recommendations. 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 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](#)