



NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

Congress is not in session. House and Senate will return on September 8.

Economy Adds 215,000 Jobs, Unemployment Steady at 5.3 Percent

On Friday, the U.S. Department of Labor reported that the number of non-farm payroll jobs increased by 215,000 in July, while the unemployment rate remained steady at 5.3 percent. The job gains were in health care; retail trade; and financial, professional, and technical services. The number of long-term unemployed Americans is 2.2 million, and the number of involuntary part-time workers, which includes individuals working part-time but looking for a full-time job, dropped slightly to 6.3 million.

Commerce Announces \$10 Million Competition to Advance Regional Innovation

Last Tuesday, U.S. Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker announced the Economic Development Administration's (EDA) \$10 million **funding opportunity** for the 2015 Regional Innovation Strategies (RIS) Program competition. The program is designed to spur innovative capacity-building activities in regions across the nation. To learn more about the program, join EDA's Twitter Chat on August 12, from 1:00 -1:30 PM ET by following @US EDA and #RISP15. See grant details in Funding section below.

OTHER NEWS

Disability.gov – A Good Resource for Disability Programs

Disability.gov is a federal government website that provides information on disability programs and services nationwide. The website connects people to resources on a wide range of topics, from obtaining disability benefits and health care to finding work and affordable housing. It houses a number of guides to help with disability rights laws, public transportation, and new assistive technologies. The site is also able to link people with local organizations that can provide support.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Want your organization featured here? Send details to anna@narc.org.

Des Moines Area 'Wading Bridge'

On July 24, a temporary art installation called *Wading Bridge* opened to the public in the Des Moines Area. Created by New York-based artist Mary Mattingly, the installation is a dock on the Raccoon River that allows people to walk across the water, as well as actually in the water. Partly funded by the Des Moines Area MPO, the project is meant to engage people in a conversation about how to improve the region's waterways and nearby trails. In a quote by the artist, "Our rivers determine our land, livelihood and lives... Crossing 'Wading Bridge' and getting our feet wet allows us a momentary intimacy with this river."

FEATURED JOBS

View full list of jobs!

Transportation Intern

National Association of Regional Councils, Washington, DC

Assistant Director of Local Authority

Alamo Area Council of Governments, San Antonio, TX

Regional Planner

Central Texas Council of Governments, Belton, TX

FUNDING

View full list of grants!

Stakeholder Input Sought for Promise Zones Third Round Application Process

Public Comments Accepted: July 29 - September 28

Urban Stakeholder Webcast - August 11, 2:30 - 3:30 PM ET

Rural Stakeholder Webinar - August 12, 1:00 - 2:00 PM ET

Tribal Stakeholder Webinar - August 12, 2:00 - 3:00 PM ET

Public comments are now being accepted on the proposed selection process, criteria, guides and submissions for the third and final round of the federal Promise Zone Initiative led by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The purpose of this process is to provide stakeholders the opportunity to offer suggestions on how federal agencies can coordinate better with local leaders in high-poverty communities. Through Promise Zones, the federal government fosters partnerships with local leaders in order to bolster economic activity, enhance public health, reduce violent crime, create jobs, and improve affordable housing. Email comments to PromiseZones@hud.gov with "Third Round Promise Zones selection" in the subject line. Useful links: ***Rural and Tribal Application Guide, Urban Application Guide***, and the **Federal Register Notice**.

2015 Regional Innovation Strategies (RIS) Program Competition

Applications Due: October 5

EDA is soliciting applications for two unique grant opportunities this year: (1) the **i6 Challenge**, which funds organizations that help innovators and entrepreneurs turn innovations, ideas, intellectual property, and research into viable, sustainable companies, and (2) Seed Fund Support Grants (previously **Cluster Grants for Seed Capital Funds**), which funds regionally-focused seed capital funds that provide early-stage capital to innovation-based startups with a potential for high growth. *See News from Washington section for more details.*

The National Endowment for the Arts Announces Research Grant

Application Deadline: October 20

Grant Guidelines Webinar: September 9, 3:00 PM ET

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) is interested in research which will measure or clarify one or more factors, characteristics, and conditions of the U.S. arts ecosystem, as well as research which will investigate the direct and indirect benefits of arts participation on health and well-being, cognitive capacity, learning, creativity, community livability, or economic prosperity. By providing financial support to deserving projects, NEA anticipates that this program will spur growth in the number of people experienced in and knowledgeable about arts-related research in the U.S. NEA plans to award 20 grants in the range of \$10,000 to \$30,000. For technical assistance, email nearesearchgrants@arts.gov.

EVENTS

View full list of events!

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