

August 13, 2018 [View this email in your browser](#)



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

eREGIONS

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

The House is on August recess. The Senate will return from their recess on Wednesday.

The Senate will kick off a truncated work week on Wednesday by paving the way towards completion of their next fiscal year (FY) 2019 appropriations package: a “minibus” appropriations bill that combines the Defense and the Labor-Health and Human Services-Education Defense/Labor-H appropriations bills. If adopted into law, this minibus would cover nearly 70 percent of discretionary FY 2019 federal spending.

Both bills passed out of committee with strong bipartisan support (30-1 in favor), but there is a chance that some so-called “poison pill” provisions could be introduced as floor amendments. If adopted, these amendments could seriously damage any chance of passing the minibus on the floor of the Senate. Some amendment topics that could be introduced include immigration, abortion and teen pregnancy, and more defense funds for Israel.

With the September 30th deadline for FY 2019 quickly approaching, the Senate is looking to finish the Defense/Labor-H minibus within the next two weeks to make sure they have enough time to consider the rest of their appropriations bills.

Trump to Sign Defense Reauthorization Act

The president will be heading to Fort Drum in New York today to sign the *John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (H.R. 5515)*. Last month, the House and Senate both came to a bipartisan agreement on the final language during conference and passed identical bills in both chambers. The bill authorizes defense programs to receive \$716 billion in FY 2019, including \$639.1 billion in base funding and about \$69 billion in Overseas Contingency Operations funding. The bill also avoided **potential political land mines**, such as a provision that would have undone the Trump administration’s agreement to ease penalties on the Chinese telecom giant ZTE.

FCC to Testify in Senate Committee Hearing

On Thursday, Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman Ajit Pai and three FCC commissioners will testify before the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee. This oversight hearing will examine policy issues before the FCC and review its ongoing duties and activities. Topics that the senators on the committee are likely to ask about include spectrum usage for next-generation mobile technologies, robocalls, and the FCC’s decision to block a merger between Sinclair Broadcast Group and Tribune Media.

FEMA Considering Shift to Risk-Based Pricing for Flood Insurance

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is currently looking into switching to risk-based pricing in 2020 for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). This process would end the subsidies most coastal communities have on their flood insurance premiums and will raise insurance costs on places repeatedly hit by hurricanes and floods. It is part of a strategy to make NFIP stable, which is currently \$20 billion in debt. The plan will likely require congressional approval, which is not guaranteed considering politicians have not come to a consensus on how to

approach the issues with the NFIP and have extended the program's reauthorization deadline six times in the last ten months.

OTHER NEWS

A Blueprint for a Modern, Regional Transportation System

The governors of Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont, as well as the mayor of D.C., formed a coalition in 2017 to redevelop an interconnected transportation network spanning the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic. These leaders also make up the Regional Green Gas Initiative that has successfully halved regional power plant emissions over the last decade. In their new report ***Transportation Reimagined: A Roadmap for Clean and Modern Transportation in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Region***, the National Resources Defense Council (NRDC) makes a series of recommendations to these local leaders to create a cleaner, more connected regional transportation system. Their blueprint for a better system includes:

- Creating and maintaining walkable, bikeable streets and expanded, accessible public transit;
- Expanding electric cars, buses, trains, and garbage trucks—with the charging infrastructure to keep them going; and
- Prioritizing vulnerable and historically marginalized communities, including the elderly, low-income communities, and communities of color.

REGION SPOTLIGHT

Ohio Regional Councils to Host Freight Conference this Week

Later this week, the Ohio Association of Regional Councils will be holding its annual Ohio Conference on Freight. As the Midwest's leading freight conference, this event convenes over 300 professionals across the country to discuss the latest topics, trends, and tools in the areas of supply chain/logistics, smart transportation technology, and federal and state policies supporting freight-related transportation and economic development. The Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI) is this year's conference host, bringing this event to downtown Cincinnati.

MAPC Issues Statement on Proposal to Weaken Vehicle Emissions, Fuel Efficiency Standards

The Metropolitan Area Planning Commission (MAPC) recently issued a statement regarding the Trump administration's proposal to weaken vehicle emission and fuel efficiency standards. MAPC Deputy Director Rebecca Davis said, "Reversing course in the country's efforts to reduce air pollutants and emissions from passenger vehicles endangers the health of all Americans, especially the most vulnerable, including children, older adults, and those living with chronic diseases. Not only dangerous to public health, this proposal will cost consumers billions of dollars in additional gasoline to run less efficient vehicles, add tons of additional greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere, and increase costs to municipalities dealing with more impacts from climate change." Has your regional council spoken out against this issue? Let us know by emailing Maci Morin at maci.morin@narc.org.

REGIONS LEAD

Visit www.regionslead.org to read up on the latest NARC blogs. We invite members to submit blogs to the site too. Please send contributions to cameron@narc.org.

President Seeks to Increase Job Opportunities for America's Unskilled Workers

By Neil Bomberg

On Thursday, July 18, the president signed an executive order that creates the Council for the American Worker. Led by the secretaries of commerce and labor, the Council is expected to focus on reorganizing federal workforce development programs and generating funding for new job training initiatives, especially apprenticeships and older worker training.

FEATURED JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Transportation Modeler

Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, Detroit, MI

Assistant Planner

Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho, Meridian, ID

Planner II

Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission, Dayton, OH

Senior Transit Analyst

Sacramento Area Council of Governments, Sacramento, CA

FUNDING

[View full list of grants!](#)

Gang Suppression Planning Grants Program

Applications Due: August 27

The U.S. Department of Justice's Gang Suppression Planning Grants Program is designed to reduce violent crime, gangs, and victimization and promote public safety in communities through planning support to eligible localities to build capacity for a multilateral data-driven strategy.

Funding will support

selected jurisdictions to undertake strategic planning and capacity-building work through multidisciplinary and community partnerships. The overall goals of the Gang Suppression Planning Grants Program are to:

- Understand the jurisdiction's gang landscape and be able to use data (gang intelligence) to develop effective gang control strategies;
- Reduce and sustain reductions in community youth violence, particularly gun and gang violence, and victimization;
- Prevent violence and promote healing from victimization and exposure to violence in the home, school, and community; and
- Increase the safety, well-being, and healthy development of children, youth, and families.

Public Humanities Projects

Applications Due: August 29

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Public Humanities Projects program supports projects that bring the ideas and insights of the humanities to life for general audiences through in-person programming. Projects must engage humanities scholarship to analyze significant themes in disciplines such as history, literature, ethics, and art history. NEH encourages projects that involve members of the public in collaboration with humanities scholars or that invite contributions from the community in the development and delivery of humanities programming. Applications should follow the parameters set out below for one of the following three categories:

- **Community Conversations:** Supports three-month-long to two-year-long series of at least six in-person public programs that are centered on one or more significant humanities resources, such as historic artifacts, artworks, literature, musical compositions, or films. These resources should be chosen to engage a diverse public audience.
- **Exhibitions:** Supports the creation of permanent exhibitions and single-site temporary exhibitions, as well as travelling exhibitions that will be available to public audiences in at least two venues in the United States.
- **Historic Places:** Supports long-term interpretive programs for historic sites, houses, neighborhoods, and regions that are intended to be presented to the public for at least three years. Such programs might include living history presentations, guided tours, exhibitions, and public programs.

Trade and Economic Transition National Dislocated Worker Grants

Applications Due: September 7

The Employment and Training Administration has announced the availability of up to \$100 million for Trade and Economic Transition National Dislocated Worker Grants (DWGs), with funding amounts of up to \$8 million for each award. These grants will enable successful

applicants to address ongoing or emerging workforce and economic challenges by providing training and career services to dislocated workers seeking reentry into the workforce. Successful projects will also increase the skill levels of dislocated workers in order for them to become more competitive for growing or high-demand employment opportunities.

Fiscal Year 2018 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Program

Applications Due: September 17

The U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) **has announced** more than \$318 million in grant funding for its CRISI program. This grant program funds projects that improve intercity passenger and freight rail transportation safety, efficiency, and reliability. It also helps finance much needed critical investment to rural America, directing at least 25 percent of available funds towards rural communities. Selection preference will be given to projects with a 50 percent non-federal funding match from any combination of private, state, or local funds. The USDOT will also consider how well the project aligns with its key objectives, including supporting economic vitality; leveraging federal funding; preparing for life-cycle costs; using innovative approaches to improve safety and expedite project delivery; and holding grant recipients accountable for achieving specific, measurable outcomes.

HUD's Continuum of Care Program

Applications Due: September 18

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is making \$2.1 billion available in fiscal year 2018 for the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program. The program is designed to promote a community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness. It provides funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, states, and local governments to quickly re-house homeless individuals, families, persons fleeing domestic violence, and youth while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused by homelessness. It also strives to promote access and utilization of mainstream programs by the homeless, and to optimize self-sufficiency among those experiencing homelessness.

Increasing Social Connectedness for Older Adults

Applications Due: September 28

The AARP Foundation is seeking applicants with evidence-based, innovative solutions positioned for exponential growth to bring to scale proven approaches that increase social support and connectedness among hundreds of thousands of low-income older adults. This funding opportunity requires a 1:1 dollar match (cash or in-kind) from one or more other funding sources. If you do not have matching funding for your requested grant amount, you must detail a plan for raising the matching funds in your application.

Tackling Senior Food Insecurity

Applications Due: September 28

The AARP Foundation is seeking applicants with evidence-based, innovative solutions positioned for exponential growth to bring to scale proven approaches that increase food security among hundreds of thousands of low-income older adults. This funding opportunity requires a 1:1 dollar match (cash or in-kind) from one or more other funding sources. If you do not have matching funding for your requested grant amount, you must detail a plan for raising the matching funds in your application.

RESTORE Act Direct Component - Construction and Real Property Acquisition Activities

Applications Due: September 28

Under the *Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012 (RESTORE Act)*, the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund (Trust Fund) was established in the Treasury of the United States. Eighty percent of the civil penalties paid after July 6, 2012, under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act in connection with the Deepwater Horizon oil spill will be deposited into the Trust Fund, invested, and dispersed. This notice is only for applications for eligible construction and real property acquisition activities, including projects with or without a non-federal share for another federally-funded project. Trust Fund amounts are available to carry out the following eligible activities described in the *RESTORE Act* (activities 1-7 must be carried out in the Gulf Coast region):

1. Restoration and protection of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast region.
2. Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, and natural resources.
3. Implementation of a federally-approved marine, coastal, or comprehensive conservation management plan, including fisheries monitoring.
4. Workforce development and job creation.
5. Improvements to or on state parks located in coastal areas affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.
6. Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure.
7. Coastal flood protection and related infrastructure.
8. Planning assistance.
9. Administrative costs.
10. Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast region, including recreational fishing.
11. Promotion of the consumption of seafood harvested from the Gulf Coast region.

Strategic Economic and Community Development

Applications Due: September 30

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA)-Rural Development Strategic Economic and Community Development (SECD) is a Farm Bill provision that allows USDA to give priority for projects that support the implementation of regional economic development plans through the following four USDA Rural Development programs: Community Facilities Loans, Grants, and Loan Guarantees; Water and Waste Disposal Program Loans, Grants, and Loan Guarantees; Business & Industry Program Loan Guarantees; and Rural Business Development Grants. To be eligible for SECD, a project must: be eligible for the underlying program; be carried out solely in a rural area; and support a multi-jurisdictional strategic economic community development plan. To apply for SECD priority points, applicants must submit **Form RD 1980-88** by the application deadline of the program(s) you are applying for or September 30, 2018, whichever comes first.

EVENTS

[View full list of events!](#)

NARC Webinar! A Regional Approach to Value Chain Coordination

August 28, 3:00-4:00 PM ET

Join us to learn more about value chain coordination, including unique roles for regional councils in growing the local food economy, as well as a return on investment. Our speakers will share some local and regional success stories on convening diverse stakeholders, identifying gaps in the supply chain, identifying funding opportunities, and exploring potential policy and programmatic solutions. They will also discuss how these projects have made a positive impact on the quality of life of residents in rural and urban communities alike. A portion of this webinar will be reserved for Q&A and an open discussion with our speakers.

engAGED: Increasing Social Engagement for Older Adults

August 15, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

Join the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) for the final installment in a five-part webinar series, engAGED: Increasing Social Engagement for Older Adults, focused on increasing the engagement of older adults to promote health and wellness. Older Adults Technology Services will be highlighting resources and focusing on best practices for engaging older adults through technology.

What's Next for Autonomous Vehicles

August 15, 3:00-4:00 PM ET

Cities across the United States are piloting autonomous vehicle technologies today, but changes may be coming if Congress passes national legislation. The U.S. Department of Transportation is also actively gathering feedback to inform their guidance. Join the National League of Cities to get your bearings on this technology, what it may mean for your city, and how your city can weigh in as decisions are made in Washington about the future of transportation.

Broadening the Housing Movement: Learn More About the Opportunity Starts at Home Campaign

August 16, 3:00-4:00 PM ET

Opportunity Starts at Home is a long-term, multi-sector campaign to meet the housing needs of the nation's low-income people. The research continues to mount that housing is inextricably linked to nearly every measure of having a quality life: education, health care, civil rights, economic mobility, poverty reduction, economic productivity and growth, social unity, homeless prevention, veterans care, and more. As such, various sectors are recognizing that affordable homes are inextricably linked to their own priorities and concerns. This webinar is open to individuals and organizations that are interested in learning more about the Opportunity Starts at Home campaign. Attendees will learn about the campaign's progress, short- and long-term plans, policy advocacy goals, and ways to get involved.

Addressing Health, Hunger, and Poverty: County Approaches to SNAP

August 22, 12:00-1:00 PM ET

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) serves as a domestic hunger safety net and is the nation's largest program for reducing hunger. By partnering with counties, multiple state agencies, and community organizations, this federal program provides food assistance and education to many low-income individuals and families. In the ten SNAP county-administered states, counties often contribute substantial local funds to administrative and supplemental costs of the program. Join the National Association of Counties (NACo) to learn more about how counties are using SNAP to address poverty and increase access to nutritious healthy foods in their communities. This webinar will feature an overview of the SNAP program and will highlight county examples of work being done on SNAP through county agencies and local county partnerships.

Municipal Approaches to Solar Energy (Part I and II)

Part I: September 13, 12:00-1:00 PM CT

Part II: September 27, 12:00-1:00 PM CT

University of Illinois Extension Community and Economic Development will air two live webinars on municipal approaches to solar energy. The first webinar on cost control will share strategies to make your municipality an easy, fast, and cheap place for solar energy installations on both public and private sector properties. Speakers will also discuss the SolSmart best practices and recognition program, municipal solar procurement, public bulk purchase programming, and leasing underutilized property for solar. The second webinar will cover municipal experiences with solar farm implementation and efforts in leading a community-supported solar panel installation.

Innovative and Emerging Broadband Technologies: Providing Economical Alternatives for Rural Broadband Access

September 19, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

BroadbandUSA's next Practical Conversation webinar will discuss new, emerging, and innovative wireless technologies currently being tested and/or deployed to address rural broadband challenges.

Opioids: Recovery, Prevention, & Hope: National Experts Equip Faith and Community Leaders

September 27, 1:00-2:00 PM ET

Live from Washington D.C., the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will convene national leaders and experts to talk about the opioid epidemic and other addictions to raise awareness, encourage compassion, reinforce the role of community and families in long-term recovery and prevention, and make a call to action. HHS encourages you to host a post-broadcast conversation in your community with local experts and discuss approaches that will foster healing for individuals and families and align regional efforts to renew wholeness in your community. This event will be livestreamed at [HHS.gov/live](https://www.hhs.gov/live).

Gaining Project Support from Your Team, Elected Officials, and the Public

November 14, 2:00-3:30 PM ET

This International City/County Management Association (ICMA) webinar will cover the following topics:

1. What's key to presenting your idea or project effectively?
2. How can everyone play a role in leading and supporting productive change?
3. What can we learn from case studies about how to navigate and serve successfully?

CONTACT US

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