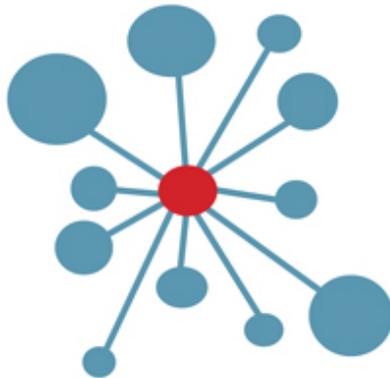




NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

eREGIONS



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**2017 executive directors conference
october 22 - october 24
san antonio, tx**

register today!

Conference Planning Committee: NARC and MetroPlan Orlando are forming an Annual Conference Planning Committee and would like your help. If you are interested in shaping the content of the Orlando agenda, please send your name to anna@narc.org today!

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

Congress returns September 5th.

Overview

With most of official Washington out of town, Senate and House majority staff and White House staff are crafting a plan to respond to the rush of legislative activities slated for next month, including the debt ceiling, budget and appropriations, and tax reform. Congress is likely to adopt a debt ceiling bill by September 29 that the president will sign, pass a continuing resolution that will run through December 15 to keep the government open, and punt tax reform to early next year. Other important pieces of legislation, such as reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program and passage of an infrastructure bill, are likely to be carried into 2018.

In response to budget and appropriations requests for information, NARC hosted a conference call last week. Both the National Association of Counties (NACo) and National League of Cities (NLC) provided important county and city perspectives during the call.

Here are some resources from the call:

- **Call Summary**
- **Fast Facts – House Appropriations**
- **Fast Facts – Senate Appropriations**

If you need further information, please contact Neil Bomberg (neil@narc.org), Erich Zimmerman (erich@narc.org), or Maci Hurley (maci.hurley@narc.org).

Opioid Epidemic Declared a National Emergency

Late last week, Trump declared that the opioid crisis will be treated as a national emergency. This follows a report produced by the administration's Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis, where formally announcing the opioid epidemic as an emergency was the top

recommendation. A **statement** from the White House has instructed administration officials to “use all appropriate emergency and other authorities to respond to the crisis caused by the opioid epidemic.” This is a much-needed first step to addressing the epidemic, and the declaration should allow the administration to remove some bureaucratic barriers and waive some federal rules governing how states and localities can respond.

HUD’s Worst Case Housing Needs Report to Congress

According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the number of very poor unsubsidized families struggling to pay their monthly rent and who may also be living in substandard housing increased between 2013 and 2015. These Worst Case Housing Needs are found in all areas of the country and across all racial, ethnic, and household types. After a decline in these needs from 2011-2013, the latest number of 8.3 million is the second highest recorded due to housing costs outpacing income gains. The demand for affordable housing continues to increase in all regions and especially in families with children, senior citizens, and persons with disabilities.

With rent amounts on the rise and federal assistance shrinking, finding affordable housing has become quite competitive. The administration has turned to the private sector to help stimulate the affordable housing market, while proposing major decreases in HUD funding. The National Low-Income Housing Coalition and the Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center at the Urban Institute are concerned that **these cuts will only make the housing crisis worse** for low- and moderate-income families. The two organizations believe the private market sees the costs of affordable housing as prohibitive.

OTHER NEWS

Draft of Federal Government Climate Science Special Report Sent to NY Times

Last week, *The New York Times* received a draft copy of the *Climate Science Special Report* created by 13 federal agencies; the report is currently awaiting approval by the administration. Some scientists are concerned that the report will be changed or suppressed by the administration, while deniers fear that the information will be made public.

The study finds that it is possible to attribute some extreme weather to climate change, and that recent record-setting temperatures and events will become the new norm in the near future. The report concludes with “very high” confidence that the number and severity of cool nights have decreased since the 1960s, while the frequency and severity of warm days have increased. With a medium degree of confidence, the scientists linked the contribution of human-caused warming to rising temperatures over the Western and Northern U.S. but found no direct link in the Southeast. What the authors found most alarming was the surface, air, and ground temperatures in Alaska and the Arctic, which are rising twice as fast as the global average.

NACo Hosts Webinar to Discuss Regional Food System Investments

Last week, NACo partnered up with the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and two county leaders that manage regional food systems to talk about the economic opportunities of local food. Recent studies have shown that people want access to locally-grown food because it is natural, fresher, and healthier. And buying local keeps money circulating in the community, while creating jobs and providing opportunities for local investment. The two representatives on the webinar were from coal-reliant communities, and capitalizing on regional food systems helped diversify their economic portfolios. Through federal government grants, state and local investments, and fundraising, Colorado’s successful food incubators are giving local food stakeholders the tools they need to get food from farms to community tables.

Do you have a regional food system success story? NARC would like to hear about it! Contact anna@narc.org and maci.hurley@narc.org to share your regional food system innovations, success stories, or interest in bringing local food opportunities to your region.

REGION SPOTLIGHT

Past President Patsy Ticer Passes

NARC mourns the loss of Patsy Ticer, who passed away last Monday, August 7. Ms. Ticer was Alexandria, Virginia's first female mayor, a four-term state senator, president of NARC, and chair of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. She held elected positions in Virginia

for almost three decades, touching almost every facet of Alexandria life – all while raising four children. Quite notably, she stood up to previous Washington Redskins owner Jack Kent Cooke over a proposed stadium in Alexandria – and won.

Regionalizing the War on Homelessness

According to the *Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress*, 549,928 people are homeless in the U.S., and 44 percent of those people are in California. To help battle homelessness in their communities, *Governing* reported that city, institutional, and community leaders in Orange County have come together under the direction of the Association of California Cities-Orange County (ACC-OC) to develop a regional, multi-jurisdictional plan. A municipal, county, and regional task force brought together a variety of stakeholders to collect information, formulate direction, and find ways to collaborate on the county's *Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness*.

Could Driverless Cars Bring an End to Parking and Traffic Tickets?

Some cities and towns are concerned with how autonomous vehicles may affect their budgets. Once driverless cars are rolled out nationwide, traffic and parking tickets may become obsolete. *Governing* conducted a study and found that 25 of the largest U.S. cities netted \$5 billion from auto-related revenues alone. It could also have a negative effect on gasoline tax sales and revenues collected from taxis and car rentals. The transition to autonomous vehicles, however, will also yield significant savings in other areas: reduced need for traffic enforcement and administration costs. Regions should start planning now for these vehicles arriving in their communities to ensure they are prepared for any budget effects that may result from their transition.

MEMBER REQUESTS

Financial Managements Systems

The Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG) is assessing their financial management system, and would benefit from knowing how other NARC members structure their financial management. What financial software package does your regional council use? GPCOG would like to talk to some great Finance Directors to understand what they do and how they do it. If you have the answers to these questions or want to have a conversation with GPCOG directly, please send your responses and/or contact information to anna@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.

Guest Blog: Implications of Southeast Michigan's 2045 Forecast

by Dr. Xuan Liu, Research Manager, SEMCOG

Demographic and socio-economic trends discussed in the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments' (SEMCOG) 2045 Regional Forecast will necessitate some lifestyle changes in the greater Detroit, Michigan region. The biggest of these trends is the aging of the population and the lack of incoming young people. These trends will create a labor shortage that can impact a regional economy.

To Sell or Not to Sell? Small Local Governments Look at Privatizing their Public Water Systems

by Maci Hurley

The Washington Post highlighted that the idea of water privatization has left small and mid-size communities, many of which are already struggling with budget deficits, with a tough choice. Should these local governments continue to manage and maintain their own public water systems? Or is selling their water system to a private corporation a more reasonable option?

FEATURED JOBS

View full list of jobs!

Program Manager

Columbus Partnership Consumer Adoption, Columbus, OH

Executive Director

Centralina Council of Governments, Charlotte, NC

Assistant – Associate Transportation Planner

Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments, Fargo, ND

Executive Director

Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments, Colorado Springs, CO

Transportation Planner

Calaveras Council of Governments, San Andreas, CA

FUNDING

[View full list of grants!](#)

African American Civil Rights History and Preservation Grants

Application Due: September 29

The National Park Service is offering grant opportunities for projects that document, interpret, and preserve sites and stories related to the African American struggle to gain equal rights as citizens in the 20th Century. Grants will fund a broad range of planning, development, and research projects for historic sites, including: survey, inventory, documentation, interpretation, education, architectural services, historic structure reports, preservation plans, and "bricks and mortar" repair. Non-federal matching share is not required, but preference will be given to applications that show community commitment through non-federal match and partnership collaboration.

Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant Application Period Now Open

Application Due: November 14

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced that \$250 million in funding is available through two Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant programs: Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) and Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM). These competitive grant programs assist state and local governments in strengthening our nation's ability to reduce disaster losses and protect life and property from future disaster damages. FMA provides funds to implement measures that reduce or eliminate risk of flood damage to structures insured by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). PDM awards funding for all-hazard mitigation planning and projects, such as the construction of community and residential safe rooms for tornados, and wind retrofits, which are enhancements made to strengthen the roof, walls, and doors of structures to minimize damage caused by high winds.

EVENTS

[View full list of events!](#)

#CommunityFood: Exploring Innovations in Community Food Systems

August 17, 3:30-4:30 PM ET

Across the nation communities are working to restore, revitalize, and reinforce the value of local food systems and are transforming the "business as usual" approach to food systems value chains. The #CommunityFood webinar will highlight themes in innovation emerging among community-based organizations across Indian Country, rural communities, and cities across America.

Homeland Security Research Program Webinar: Research and Development Solutions to Water Emergencies

August 18, 1:00-2:00 PM ET

This webinar will describe Environmental Protection Agency tools and strategies to improve drinking water and wastewater system resiliency after disasters, and quickly recover from contamination involving chemical, biological, and radiological (CBR) agents. Resources supporting risk assessment activities that state laboratories and public health and environmental agencies undertake will be presented. Current research on potential exposure pathways related to high consequence pathogens (e.g., Ebola virus, Bacillus anthracis spores) in wastewater will also be summarized.

Cisco 2017 Midyear Cybersecurity Report Insights

September 14, 1:00-2:00 PM ET

Cisco security experts are becoming increasingly concerned about the accelerating pace of change in the cyber threat landscape. The webinar addresses Cisco's findings from their 2017 Midyear Cybersecurity Report.

In this webinar, you will:

- Discover select methods threat actors are using to compromise and infiltrate systems
- Examine vulnerabilities and other exposures that may leave you susceptible to attacks
- Explore opportunities for defenders by industry to improve your security posture
- Get a chance to participate in a live Q&A session

CONTACT US

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