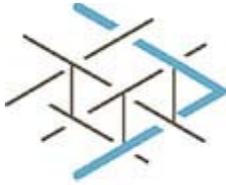


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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XIII, No. 31, August 19, 2013

eRegions

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

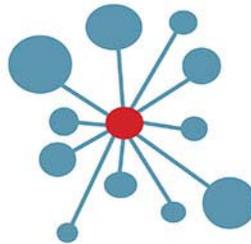
Colleagues,

Today, President Obama's Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force released their rebuilding strategy, which includes 69 policy recommendations. Chaired by the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan, the report says, "(all) coastal communities should assume floods are going to happen more frequently and realize that spending more now on protective measures could save money later. It calls for development of a more advanced electrical grid less likely to be crippled in a crisis, and the creation of better planning tools and standards for communities

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

[MEMBER 360](#)

[GRANT OPPORTUNITIES](#) [UPCOMING EVENTS](#)



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**executive directors' conference
september 30 - october 1, 2013
santa monica, ca**

Agenda, Registration and Hotel Information

Click [HERE](#) to access the conference website.

PROGRAM UPDATE

Last Chance to Register: Oklahoma City Regional Workshop - August 22, 2013: Join NARC and the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG) to learn from National and local experts on why solar is viable in the OKC region, innovative financing options, and more! Click [HERE](#) to register.

Upcoming Regional Solar Workshops: NARC is hosting free interactive workshops that provide regions with actionable information

rebuilding storm-damaged areas.” Access the Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force Rebuilding Strategy Fact Sheet [HERE](#) or full document [HERE](#).

On October 1st, the Affordable Care Act Health Insurance Marketplace opens. There are resources available from a number of sources for small business, local government and non-profit organizations to better understand the Act and its timeline. For local governments, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) just released a toolkit to understand and implement the Affordable Care Act. According to the release “the toolkit includes an overview of the Affordable Care Act, a sample outreach and enrollment plan that you can tailor for your community, frequently asked questions and answers, resources and information on training sessions, contacts for HHS regional offices and sample materials that can be used for newsletters, social media and public events.” You can find the toolkit [here](#). AARP has business, citizen and community related info here: [AARP Fact Sheets](#). The White House has 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

Protecting the Electric Grid from Weather Due to Climate Change

A new report from the White House Council of Economic Advisers and the Energy Department evaluates the economic cost of power outages and calls for increased cross-sector investment to make the electric grid more resilient in the face of increasingly severe weather events due to climate change. Click [HERE](#) to access the report.

New Resource on Forest Ecosystem Assessments

American Forests has developed the *Urban Forests Assessments Resource Guide* to provide a framework for practitioners interested in doing urban forest ecosystem assessments. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the tool.

POLICYUPDATE

Congress is in recess.

NARC Releases Comparison of Workforce Investment Act

Reauthorization Bills: NARC has compiled a [comprehensive side-by-side document](#) outlining provisions in the House-passed SKILLS Act (HR 803) and the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP Committee-passed 2013 Workforce Investment Act (S 1356). Both the House and Senate have taken up efforts to reauthorize and reform the decade-long expired Workforce Investment Act. There are stark difference between the two proposals – the House version overhauls the current workforce development system into a block grant program managed at the state level. The Senate version makes much less dramatic changes and maintains local governance while requiring a unified state plan to be submitted federally. More information is available on NARC’s Workforce Resource page [HERE](#).

MEMBER360

CMAP Releases New Arts and Culture Planning Toolkit: The

here: healthcare.gov.

I hope to see all our Executive Directors in Santa Monica for your training conference. We have fantastic sessions planned and, most importantly, time for you and your peers to exchange ideas.

Best,
Fred

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

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) released its *Arts and Culture Planning: A Toolkit for Communities*. This new toolkit provides a step-by-step guide to help local planners incorporate more arts and culture into their communities by setting goals, identifying assets, and evaluating needs and impacts. It also includes model ordinance language to guide arts and culture activities within municipalities. Click [HERE](#) to access CMAP's toolkit.

H-GAC Funds Award-Winning Documentary on Teen Drunk

Driving: The Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) funded documentary "Chronicles of a Teen Killer" won bronze in the 34th Annual Telly Awards, the premier award honoring outstanding local, regional, and cable TV commercials and programs. "Chronicles of a Teen Killer" is an in-depth documentary about the impact of driving while intoxicated on society. Click to watch "Chronicles of a Teen Killer" [HERE](#).

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

USDA - High Energy Cost Grant Program

Deadline: September 3, 2013

The High Energy Cost Grant Program provides financial assistance for the improvement of energy generation, transmission, and distribution facilities servicing eligible rural communities with home energy costs that are over 275 percent of the national average. To learn more about this grant, click [HERE](#).

NOAA NEW - Climate Program Office FY 2014

Due Date: September 10, 2013 letter of intent; November 14, 2013 full application

NOAA advances scientific and technical programs to help society cope with, and adapt to, today's variations in climate and prepare for tomorrow's. Toward this end, the agency conducts and supports climate research, essential oceanic and atmospheric observations, modeling, information management, assessments, interdisciplinary decision support research, outreach, education, and stakeholder partnership development. The full announcement of opportunity is available on the Grants.Gov website. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant Program

Deadline: September 10, 2013

Anna Rosenbaum

Intern

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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**.

The U.S. Department of Commerce EDA 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**.

The Rockefeller Foundation – 100 Resilient Cities, Centennial Challenge

Registration to Apply by September 23, 2013

The Rockefeller Foundation has launched the 100 Resilient Cities Centennial Challenge aimed at enabling 100 cities to better address the increasing shocks and stresses of the 21st century. One hundred cities from across the globe will be selected to receive technical support and resources for developing and implementing plans for urban resilience. Challenge applicants may include municipal governments or major institutions (e.g., a nonprofit organization, university, chamber of commerce, or research center) that have a predominant affiliation/association with the city and demonstrate collaborative partnership with a municipal government. Interested applicants must **REGISTER** to apply by September 23 to receive the application. The full application is due October 14, 2013. More information is **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](#).

U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) - Paleo Perspectives on Climate Change

Due Date: October 15, 2013

The goal of research funded under the interdisciplinary P2C2 solicitation is to utilize key geological, chemical, atmospheric (gas in ice cores), and biological records of climate system variability to provide insights into the mechanisms and rate of change that characterized Earth's past climate variability, the sensitivity of Earth's climate system to changes in forcing, and the response of key components of the Earth system to these changes. Click [HERE](#) for more details.

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.

U.S. Department of Agriculture – Rural Community Investment Initiative

Deadline: November 12, 2013

The USDA is seeking applications for grants that will be awarded to organizations to help rural businesses create jobs and spur economic

development. USDA is making \$5.6 million available through the Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI), a program that generates economic activity in rural areas. Applications must be submitted to the USDA Rural Development state office where the applicant's headquarters are located. More information is available [HERE](#).

NSF - Cyber-Physical Systems

Due Date: January 29, 2014

The National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have a shared interest in advancing basic and applied research in Cyber Physical Systems (CPS), which are systems in which physical processes are tightly intertwined with networked computing. For transportation, CPS will provide the foundation necessary for a safe, efficient highway transportation system connecting vehicles, infrastructure, people, and goods in a vibrant, competitive economy. More information is available [HERE](#).

NSF - Cyber-Enabled Sustainability Science and Engineering

Due Date: February 4, 2014

The Cyber-Enabled Sustainability Science and Engineering (CyberSEES) program aims to advance interdisciplinary research in which the science and engineering of sustainability are enabled by new advances in computing, and where computational innovation is grounded in the context of sustainability problems. More information is available [HERE](#).

Energy for Sustainability

Due Date: February 20, 2014

This program supports fundamental research and education that will enable innovative processes for the sustainable production of electricity and transportation fuels. Processes for sustainable energy production must be environmentally benign, reduce greenhouse gas production, and utilize renewable resources. Current interest areas in sustainable energy technologies are: **Biomass Conversion, Biofuels & Bioenergy, Photovoltaic Solar Energy, Wind Energy, and Advanced Batteries for Transportation**. Learn more about this program [HERE](#).

NSF - Environmental Sustainability

Due Date: March 20, 2014

The **Environmental Sustainability** program supports engineering research that seeks to balance society's need to provide ecological

protection and maintain stable economic conditions. Research in Environmental Sustainability typically considers long time horizons and may incorporate contributions from the social sciences and ethics. There are four principal general research areas which are supported: Industrial Ecology, Green Engineering, Ecological Engineering, Earth Systems Engineering. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

UPCOMINGEVENTS

Solar Resource Pricing Programs Webinar

August 20, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

This webinar by the U.S. Department of Energy's Green Power Network will explore green pricing programs and the challenges local governments face. Click [HERE](#) to register.

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.

2012 Market Report on U.S. Wind Technologies Webinar

August 21, 3:00-4:00 PM ET

Join the U.S. Department of Energy as they provide a detailed overview of their *2012 Market Report on U.S. Wind Technologies in Distributed Applications*. No registration required; click [HERE](#) to join the webinar.

EPA Webinar: Sustainable Communities HotReport

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

How well is your community performing on transportation, housing, economic development, income, and equity? The Sustainable Communities HotReport is a new web-based tool that gives community leaders and residents a quick and easy way to determine how well their community is performing on a variety of sustainability indicators.

The tool can help communities measure their own performance and compare themselves to communities of a similar type. Speakers from EPA, the U.S. Census Bureau, and the Mid-America Regional Council will walk through the tool and help participants understand how it can help communities achieve their sustainability goals. Click [HERE](#) for details.

Using the Street and Parking Facility Lighting Retrofit Financial Analysis Tool

August 22, 1:00-2:00 PM ET

Join the U.S. Department of Energy as they show local governments how they can use the tool to compute annualized energy and energy-cost savings, maintenance savings, greenhouse gas reductions, net present value, and simple payback associated with potential lighting upgrades. 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 (HMTTC) 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](#).

Tying Energy Efficiency to Compensation and Performance Reviews

September 3, 3:00-4:00 PM ET

Join Better Building Challenge to learn about initiatives your organization can put in place to reward employees for meeting energy efficiency goals. Click [HERE](#) to register.

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.

EPA Webinar: Smart Growth and Economic Success

September 18, 2013, 3:00 - 4:00 ET

This webinar will explore how smart growth strategies at the regional, city, and neighborhood level can maximize economic advantages while creating attractive, healthy communities that help protect the environment. This webinar will feature EPA's report, Smart Growth and Economic Success: Benefits for Real Estate Developers, Investors, Businesses, and Local Government. Speakers will discuss how smart growth is helping their communities prosper. Click [HERE](#) for details.

EPA Webinar: Infrastructure Financing for Transit-Oriented Development

September 24, 2013, 3:00 - 4:00 ET

NEW. Transit-oriented development (TOD) offers a mix of housing, employment, shopping, and transportation choices that can help reduce air pollution and development on open lands and improve water quality and access to jobs. Yet the infrastructure required to create TOD is expensive and funding for infrastructure for new TOD can be difficult to obtain. This webinar will cover some of the lessons learned from a year-long Smart Growth Implementation Assistance project on financing TOD infrastructure. Speakers from the Utah Transit Authority and the NoMa Business Improvement District in Washington, DC will then discuss TOD in their communities. Click [HERE](#) for details.

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.

ICMA Webinar: Iceberg Dead Ahead: Course Correction Leadership

October 17, 1:00-2:30 p.m. ET

Is your organization drifting off course? Do you even know? According to John Gardner, ailing organizations have developed a “functional blindness” to their own defects. Many jurisdictions have hit “organizational icebergs” – often due to the economic downturn. Others have seized opportunities to change their course for the better. “Iceberg Dead Ahead!” is an introduction to the topic of Course Correction Leadership that was first described in an article published in the October, 2012 issue of *Public Management* titled “Steering Clear of Organizational Icebergs.” To register, click [HERE](#).

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.

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