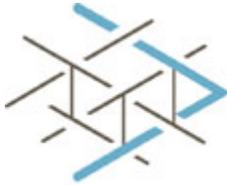


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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XII, No. 32, August 20, 2012

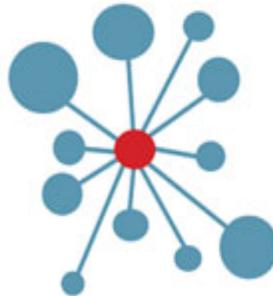
eRegions

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

This past week, I spoke at the Kentucky Governors' Local Issues Conference on sequestration and the Federal budget (click [HERE](#) to access the presentation). The problem at hand is drastic cuts to all domestic discretionary spending including Defense. However, cutting deeply will not achieve enough savings in the budget to offset entitlement programs and may send us into recession. Furthermore, if we manage to suddenly reduce federal expenditures, our local problems will remain the same if not become

[PROGRAM UPDATE](#) [POLICY UPDATE](#)
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executive directors' conference
september 23-25, 2012
boise, id

REGISTER TODAY

PROGRAM UPDATE

National Broadband Board Members Announced: Today, the U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) appointed twelve members to serve on the Board of the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet), a congressionally mandated entity for establishing and operating a public safety nationwide wireless broadband network. Click [HERE](#) for more information. The DOC will soon announce information on the availability of \$135 million for a new State and Local Implementation Grant Program administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to support State, regional, tribal, and local jurisdictions' planning work with FirstNet to ensure the network meets their wireless public safety communications needs.

worse. States and localities will have to immediately raise revenue to offset Federal budget losses; and because of how we distribute Federal dollars – the poorest states will be the hardest hit – having to raise the most per capita in revenue.

While it's not always a bad thing to keep dollars local – the impact of 20%-30% loss in Federal revenue will stretch some to the breaking point further, threatening the economy. While it seems to be out of our hands, there is something you can do – talk to your Congressional delegation and explain what these cuts will mean immediately for your communities.

Your Staff will continue to work with Congress and the White House on a compromise and with all of you on strategies to mitigate these cuts.

Best,
Fred

NARCLEADERSHIP

President David F. Shafer,
Clerk/Treasurer,
Town of Munster, IN

Solar Workshops Coming to a City Near You! Local governments interested in learning more about solar deployment in their region are invited to attend free workshops in the Southeast and Midwest, hosted by the SunShot Solar Outreach Partnership. These interactive workshops will provide actionable information on creating a local-level solar program in your region. Workshops are registered for 2 AICP CM credits. Click [HERE](#) to see if a workshop is coming to your city.

NARC/HUD Webinar: The Location Affordability Portal: On September 6, 2012, from 3:00-4:00 pm ET, explore the true cost of place by taking a virtual tour of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Location Affordability Portal. HUD's Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities and the U.S. Department of Transportation have established the Housing and Transportation Affordability Initiative to study the link between housing and transportation costs and location. A product of the Initiative is the Location Affordability Portal, which will contain the Location Affordability Index to measure housing and transportation costs at the neighborhood level, and My Transportation Cost Calculator to allow individuals to enter information about their household and generate customized transportation cost estimates. Join Josh Geyer, HUD's federal project manager, for a walkthrough of this exciting new informational tool. Click [HERE](#) to register.

POLICYUPDATE

The House and Senate are on recess from August 6 - September 7.

Updated Farm Bill Analysis: Click [HERE](#) to access NARC's updated 2012 Farm Bill analysis. The analysis now includes information on the House bill, HR 6083. Contact Jenee Kresge at jenee@narc.org or 202.986.1032 x215 with questions.

FTA Releases New Environmental Justice Guidance: The U.S. Federal Transit Administration (FTA) finalized new guidance, available by clicking [HERE](#), which incorporates environmental justice (EJ) principles into plans, projects, and activities that receive funding from FTA.

Obama Administration Releases \$473 Million in Idle Earmarked Transportation Funds: Today, the U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood announced that over \$470 million in unspent earmarks will

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immediately become available to states for projects that will create jobs and help improve transportation across the country. A list of available funds by state can be accessed **HERE**.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

AIA Sustainable Design Assessment Teams - Technical Assistance

Application Due: October 12, 2012

The American Institute of Architects' (AIA) Center for Communities by Design is seeking potential partner communities that can demonstrate the capacity to convene a diverse set of community leaders and stakeholders for an intensive, collaborative planning process focused on long-term sustainability. The Center is particularly focused on identifying communities that have the ability to leverage local resources and build strong partnerships for implementation of an SDAT process. For more information, visit the **AIA SDAT page**.

NOAA Climate Program Office FY13 Grant Application Information

November 6, 2012

Individual programs within CPO will now be accepting letters of intent and project applications. The full announcement of opportunity is available on the **CPO Funding Opportunities** page and on the **Grants.Gov website**.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Installing Solar on Municipal Facilities

August 28, 2012, 1:00pm ET

Join the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) for a free webinar where you will hear from solar industry experts about the benefits of going solar, solar technologies and their applications, and tools for financing solar projects. On this webinar: hear from solar industry experts; learn about different solar technologies and their applications; learn about solar leasing and power purchase agreements; and discuss key considerations when installing solar on your municipal facilities. Click **HERE** to register.

NARC/HUD Webinar: The Location Affordability Portal

September 6, 2012, 3:00-4:00pm ET

Explore the true cost of place by taking a virtual tour of the U.S.

Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Location Affordability Portal. HUD's Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities and the U.S. Department of Transportation have established the Housing and Transportation Affordability Initiative to study the link between housing and transportation costs and location. A product of the Initiative is the Location Affordability Portal, which will contain the Location Affordability Index to measures housing and transportation costs at the neighborhood level, and My Transportation Cost Calculator to allow individuals to enter information about their household and generate customized transportation cost estimates. Join Josh Geyer, HUD's federal project manager, for a walkthrough of this exciting new informational tool. Click [HERE](#) to register.

Solar Powering Your Community Workshop

September 7, 2012, 8:30am-12:30pm, Kansas City, MO

Join the SunShot Solar Outreach Partnership and the Mid-America Regional Council for a free half-day workshop to answer your questions about the relevance and affordability of photo voltaic solar for the heartland region. This workshop will present illustrative best practices, practical implementation information and case study examples to specifically demonstrate the opportunities that solar offers. For more information and to register, click [HERE](#).

13th National Tools of the Trade Conference

September 12 - 14, 2012, Big Sky, MT

Join transportation professionals from around the country to network, share ideas, and learn about the latest developments and opportunities for transportation planning in small and medium sized communities. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

2012 Ohio Conference on Freight

September 13-14, 2012, Sandusky, OH

The 2012 conference will focus on building professional capacity in all aspects of freight transport, strengthening relationships between public and private sectors, and examining state and federal policies that support freight related economic development. To register or receive more information, click [HERE](#).

EcoSummit - Ecological Sustainability: Restoring the Planet's Ecosystem Services

September 20-October 5, 2012, Columbus, OH

Topics covered will include ecological restoration, ecological

engineering, global chance, wetland management, corporate involvement and sustainable economies. For information, click [HERE](#).

2012 Executive Directors' Conference

September 24-26, 2012, Boise, ID

Register Today! Join Executive Directors and senior staff of regional councils and metropolitan planning organizations at this premier regional training event. Registration information and an agenda are available [HERE](#).

EPA to hold Water Quality Standards Virtual Academy

October 4, 2012, 1:00-4:00pm ET

EPA will launch its Water Quality Standards Virtual Academy webinar with Water Quality Standards 101. Learn how you can use Water Quality Standards (WQS) to protect water resources! Click [HERE](#) to register.

ICMA 2012 Annual Conference

October 7-10, 2012, Phoenix, AZ

Over three days, members and guests will learn about key local government management issues and leading practices, exchange ideas and network. Visit the ICMA Conference online at icma.org/conference2012.

UPEDA Conference on Bi-National Collaboration and Quarterly Meeting

October 24-25, 2012, Sault Ste Marie, MI

Presenters include Roy Norton, Consul General of Canada at Detroit; a panel on alternative energy; Phil Becker, Executive Director of the International Bridge Authority; and other presenters still being confirmed. Click [HERE](#) for registration and additional information.

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