

August 20, 2018 [View this email in your browser](#)



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**2018 executive directors conference  
september 30 - october 2  
cleveland, oh**

**save the date!**

### **EDC REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!**

Get ready for Cleveland, executive directors! Registration for NARC's 2018 Executive Directors Conference (EDC), being held September 30 to October 2, is now open [here](#). Early bird rates are available now through Friday, September 7. Conference sessions and the room block will be at **Metropolitan at The 9, Autograph Collection**. Reserve your hotel room before Sunday, September 9 to guarantee the group rate of \$169 plus tax per night. The **draft conference agenda** is also available. If you have any questions about logistics, please reach out to Marcy Fritter at [marcy@narc.org](mailto:marcy@narc.org).

### **NEWS FROM WASHINGTON**

#### **Road Ahead: Appropriations on Senate Floor**

After a very short two-day work schedule last week, the Senate is now back to full-time legislating. A large focus of this week will be on a fiscal year (FY) 2019 spending package that combines two appropriations bills: Defense and Labor-Health and Human Services-Education. The Labor-Health and Human Services-Education bill is traditionally the hardest to pass on the Senate floor with its partisan debates about social policy issues. An amendment has already been filed by Senators Rand Paul (R-KY) and Mike Lee (R-UT) to block federal funding to Planned Parenthood. Leaders of the Senate Appropriations Committees are likely to avoid this amendment because it would be a "poison-pill" policy rider that could cause a Democratic filibuster. Rather, the amendments to the spending package up for roll call votes this evening are likely to have overwhelming support, such as Senators Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Lisa Murkowski's (R-AK) amendment to allocate \$1 million for the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act.

#### **Apply Today for the FCC's BDAC Disaster Response and Recovery Working Group!**

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has released a **public notice** soliciting nominations for a new working group within its Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee (BDAC). The Disaster Response and Recovery Working Group has been charged with "making recommendations on additional measures that can be taken before a disaster to improve resiliency of broadband infrastructure, strategies that can be used during the response to a disaster to minimize the downtime of broadband networks, and actions that can be taken to restore broadband infrastructure during disaster recovery." The FCC is seeking applicants from several categories, including those representing local governments, local public safety entities, regional organizations, and state municipal leagues. Applications are due **September 7<sup>th</sup>**. If you have any questions, or are planning on applying, please email Maci Morin at [maci.morin@narc.org](mailto:maci.morin@narc.org).

#### **EPA Receives Record Number of Letters of Interest for WIFIA Water Infrastructure Loans**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) received 62 letters of interest in response to the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program's 2018 Notice of Funding opportunity, collectively asking for \$9.1 billion in loans. Prospective borrowers from 24 states, D.C., and Guam asked for loans for a variety of water infrastructure projects, including wastewater, drinking water, water recycling, desalination, stormwater management, and combined approaches. While most of the applicants were municipal government agencies, other prospective borrowers included small communities, public-private partnerships, corporations, and a tribe. More than half of the letters of interest included the priority of reducing exposure to lead and other contaminants in drinking water systems and updating aging infrastructure.

### **What's the Plan for the Clean Power Plan?**

This week, the Trump administration is widely expected to unveil its plan to rewrite the Obama administration's *Clean Power Plan*, which is focused on reducing emissions from coal-burning power plants. *Politico* **reported last week on details** within the White House's draft proposal to rewrite the plan, which includes giving states leeway to write their own modest regulations for coal plants or allowing them to seek permission to opt-out entirely. The president will be travelling to coal country tomorrow in West Virginia for a rally, and the administration is likely to drop its proposed rewrite on the *Clean Power Plan*.

## **OTHER NEWS**

### **The Policy Trifecta of Resilient Communities**

Rosalynn Bliss, mayor of Grand Rapids, MI, recognizes that issues like resiliency and equity continue to shape policymaking in this urban growing area. That is why she must always keep in mind the policy trifecta that resilient communities are built on: environmental sustainability, social justice, and equitable economic development. "I've always had a very holistic view of the work that we do within the city knowing that it takes more than just focusing on one area to truly make the city a strong, resilient city," Bliss said. "I've always had a very multi-pronged approach to the work we do knowing that we really have to address multiple issues at once." Mayor Bliss and other Grand Rapids leaders are using this scope to help tackle issues that haven't always been front and center, but are key to building an adaptable region: inequity and gentrification.

## **REGION SPOTLIGHT**

### **Eastgate Hosts Health and Equity in Transportation Event**

The Eastgate Council of Governments (Eastgate) held a 4-hour workshop for regional leaders last week: Health and Equity in Transportation. The course examined the intersection between public health and transportation, as well as the challenges and opportunities that occupy this interdisciplinary space. The session, divided into four parts, provided participants the knowledge and skills needed to collaborate with public health and transportation professionals in order to identify and address health-related transportation challenges and opportunities in their communities. It also taught attendees more about how active living and active transportation, specifically, can be used to improve public health.

### **MARC Reappointed to Serve as Head Start Grantee**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families recently reappointed the Mid-America Regional Council to serve as the Head Start/Early Head Start grantee for three Missouri counties. This new award will provide MARC's Mid-America Head Start program with \$25 million per year through 2023. The program includes wraparound services that address physical and mental health, social and emotional development, and family engagement for low-income families. Although this program continues to make a difference in the lives of disadvantaged children in their region, the press release also highlights that more funding is needed for this program to reach its full potential. Program Director Liz Smith said, "Even with the continuation of this grant, we can only serve 12 percent of the children and families in Clay, Platte, and Jackson counties who are eligible for Head Start and Early Head Start."

## **FEATURED JOBS**

***View full list of jobs!***

### **Director Southern Nevada Strong**

Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada, Las Vegas, NV

**Associate Transportation Planner**

Rogue Valley Council of Governments, Central Point, OR

**GIS Analyst**

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, Pittsburgh, PA

**Executive Director**

Kankakee River Basin Commission, Portage, IN

**Transportation Modeler**

Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, Detroit, MI

**FUNDING**

*View full list of grants!*

**Forest Service - Landscape Scale Restoration Grants**

Applications Due: October 12

The U.S. Forest Service will support competitive projects that shape and influence forest land use on a scale and in a way that optimizes public benefits from trees and forests for both current and future generations. Organizations interested in helping states and the U.S. Forest Service attain mutual goals can familiarize themselves with their State Forest Action Plan(s) and discuss project ideas with their state forestry agency. Coordination with State Foresters is the essential step that ensures projects will make an important local difference. Partners and collaborators must submit an initial draft of their Grants.gov application to involved State Foresters by September 14.

**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.

### **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.

### **The State of Local Retirement and Health Benefits**

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

Hosted by the Center for State and Local Government Excellence (SLGE) and the National League of Cities (NLC), this webinar will review the current trends in local government benefit reform and financing. Researchers from SLGE and NLC will provide insight on how jurisdictions across the country are managing and altering their benefits as they work to provide sustainable, high-quality benefits to recruit and retain public workers. We will dive into the current state of retirement and health benefits, and highlight new NLC state of the cities research along with SLGE's public workforce survey work.

### **Poverty, Income, Health, and Work: What Can We Learn from the New Census Data?**

September 6, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

Unemployment is down, but workers' pay is losing ground. Did low-income people make gains in 2017? What is helping, and what's standing in the way? The Coalition on Human Needs (CHN) will hold its annual Census webinar to prep you for the new data coming out on September 12-13. You'll get the forecast from economic expert Jared Bernstein and training from CHN Executive Director Debbie Weinstein on how to get the facts for your community, congressional district, state, and nation.

### **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).

### **County-State Collaboration in Criminal Justice Planning**

September 27, 2:00-3:15 PM ET

As counties and states across the country work to make their justice systems run more fairly and effectively, many jurisdictions are realizing that intergovernmental coordination is essential. County and state justice systems are run separately in most states, but they are very intertwined and changes at the state level can have major impacts at the local level and vice versa. Join the National Association of Counties (NACo) and the National Criminal Justice Association for this

webinar to learn how states and counties can work together to identify issues and opportunities and develop solutions that improve criminal justice at both levels of government.

**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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