

August 27, 2018 [View this email in your browser](#)



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

save the date!

Register Today for NARC's Executive Directors Conference!

Join NARC, the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Council, and your peers in Cleveland, Ohio September 30 – October 2 for a not-to-be missed opportunity to learn about ideas and best practices from your colleagues and other experts around the nation. Registration for NARC's 2018 Executive Directors Conference (EDC) 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.

NARC Board Members (and those who manage travel for Board Members), don't forget to **RSVP here** for both the Board Retreat and Dinner. The Board Dinner will begin after 6pm on Tuesday, October 2nd and the meeting will end before 2pm on Wednesday, October 3rd. Please plan your departure flights accordingly. If you have any questions about logistics, please reach out to Marcy Fritter at marcy@narc.org.

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

The House is on August recess. The Senate is in session.

Last week, the Senate passed a massive \$854 billion spending package (**H.R. 6157**) that included the Defense and Labor-Health and Human Services (HHS)-Education appropriations bills. Approved by a vote of 85-7, this bill alone provides for 60 percent of the total fiscal year (FY) 2019 appropriations funding. This bill was a joint effort by the Senate to continue making strides towards finishing their consideration on all twelve appropriations bills by the September 30th deadline. The Labor-HHS-Education is often the most difficult appropriations bill to pass because of fights over abortion and other health-related issues, but the Senate stuck to their agreement to return to regular order in the appropriations process and avoid "poison pill" policy riders. This commitment to working in a bipartisan manner has allowed the Senate to pass nine appropriations bills ahead of schedule, putting them in a good position to pass the remaining three bills by the FY 2019 deadline.

However, there are only 11 full legislative days in the month of September. This leaves Congress in a legislative time crunch to pass their own versions of each appropriations bill, work together through a conference committee to reconcile their differences, and pass the final version through each chamber. It is very likely that a short-term continuing resolution will be needed to avoid a federal government shutdown. We will continue monitoring the appropriations process and will keep you updated as the FY 2019 deadline nears.

Local Concerns about Preemption in the Farm Bill

As the Farm Bill Conference Committee prepares to meet to deliberate the bill's final language, local government associations in DC remained concerned about two provisions in the House bill that could preempt local authority. Section 9101 of the House's Farm Bill would prevent local governments from adopting pesticide regulations that are more stringent than federal rules, even if the local government deems a pesticide to be harmful to health or the environment. The Protecting Interstate Commerce provision, also known as the King amendment, would force states and local governments to accept products from other states even if they violate standards and regulations enacted in the importing state, creating a "race to the bottom." If your local elected officials are interested in speaking out on these issues, the National League of Cities have shared a **sample letter** that they have been sharing with their state municipal leagues.

USDA Forest Service Announces New Strategy for Improving Forest Conditions

The U.S. Forest Service has recently released a **report** and **announcement** that outlines its intention to work more closely with states to target localized preventive treatments, including prescribed burns, in areas most likely to benefit from them. The report says, "In an era of megafires that sweep across landscapes in multiple ownerships, no single entity can meet the challenge alone at the scale needed to reduce fire risk across broad landscapes. The belief that individual landowners and land managers can and should shoulder all responsibility for disturbance-related risks within their own jurisdictions is outdated. The risk is at scales that are simply too great." The agency will soon begin this process by meeting with state and local stakeholders across the country to discuss the framework of the plan, align goals, and receive feedback.

DHS Announces Grant Allocations for Fiscal Year 2018 Preparedness Grants

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Kirstjen M. Nielsen has announced final allocations of \$345 million for six FY 2018 DHS competitive preparedness grant programs. Combining these allocations together with the \$1.3 billion in non-competitive grants announced by DHS in June, the department has promised more than \$1.6 billion to assist states, local governments, and nonprofit agencies with their preparedness efforts. These grants help strengthen our nation's ability to be ready for, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies. Some of the major allocations for FY 2018 include:

- Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)—provides more than \$1 billion for states and urban areas to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism and other threats.
 - State Homeland Security Program (SHSP)—provides \$402 million to support the implementation of the National Preparedness System to build and strengthen preparedness capabilities at all levels.
 - Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI)—provides \$580 million to enhance regional preparedness and capabilities in 29 high-threat, high-density areas.
 - Operation Stonegarden (OPSG)—provides \$85 million to enhance cooperation and coordination among local, tribal, territorial, state, and federal law enforcement agencies to jointly enhance security along the United States' land and water borders where there are ongoing U.S. Customs and Border Protection missions.

OTHER NEWS

Participate in the 2020 Census Participant Statistical Areas Program!

The U.S. Census Bureau's Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP) allows invited participants to review and update selected statistical area boundaries for 2020 Census tabulation. This is the only opportunity prior to the 2020 Census for regional planning agencies, councils of government, and local governments to update its selected statistical areas, which will help determine federal grants and plan for future community needs. Invitations were mailed out in mid-August. The U.S. Census Bureau requests that the forms be returned as soon as possible. You can find more information about the PSAP process **here**.

REGION SPOTLIGHT

TARC Participates in Long-Term Disaster Recovery Training

Last week, Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush hosted a historic inaugural training for members of the Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) affected by Hurricane Harvey. The

training focused on the Disaster Recovery Framework and how local community leaders can be better prepared not just for emergency response, but also short- and long-term disaster recovery. TARC Executive Director Ginny Lewis said " [TARC] is honored to partner with the Texas General Land Office (GLO) on this vital disaster recovery mission. We are also proud to join with the GLO on this exciting new training opportunity, which leverages the experience and local network of the COGs, while connecting our regional teams with state officials in Austin like never before." Rebuild Texas has also partnered with TARC and eight Harvey-impacted regions to match federal U.S. Economic Development Administration dollars to provide for a disaster recovery coordinator in each region.

FEATURED JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Legislative Analyst III

Southern California Association of Governments, Los Angeles, CA

Senior-Level Bicycle and Pedestrian Planner

North Central Texas Council of Governments, Arlington, TX

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

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.

Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Program

Applications Due: September 25

The Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction (LHR) grant program assists states, cities, counties/parishes, Native American Tribes, or other units of local government in undertaking comprehensive programs to identify and control lead-based paint hazards in eligible privately-owned rental or owner-occupied housing populations. Funds will be awarded to applicants to accomplish many objectives, including: maximizing the number of children under the age of six years protected from lead poisoning and the number of housing units where lead hazards are controlled; utilizing cost-effective lead hazard control methods and approaches that ensure the long-term safety of the building occupants; building local capacity to safely and effectively address lead hazards during lead hazard control, renovation, remodeling, and maintenance activities; and developing comprehensive, community-based approaches to integrating this grant program within other local initiatives through public and private partnerships.

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.

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.

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.

NARC F4F Webinar! NARC F4F Webinar: Incorporating Gaseous Fuel Vehicles into Your Fleet

August 29, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

Fleets for the Future (F4F) is a national project team of regional councils, Clean Cities coalitions, and industry experts, led by NARC, tasked with coordinating regional and national procurement initiatives to consolidate bulk orders of alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) and infrastructure. Please join the F4F team on August 29 to learn about both gaseous fuels and their respective vehicle technologies, the best applications of the technology, and planning guidance for cooperative procurement. There will be a Q&A session following the presentation.

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.

Build Back Better: State and Local Lessons on Long-Term Disaster Recovery

September 13, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

After disaster strikes a community, local governments must move quickly from short-term stabilization to long-term recovery. Simply ensuring that the community's economy, housing market, health and social services, infrastructure, and natural and cultural resources return to previous conditions is difficult enough. However, true disaster recovery entails strengthening each of these institutions and guaranteeing they are more resilient to future disasters. During this

digital webcast, *Route Fifty* will explore what it takes to successfully recover, both in the short and long-term, from a disaster. From sustained executive support to effective program management, integrated pre-disaster planning to strategic flexibility, we'll dive into the elements needed to build back better after disasters.

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.

Securing Democracy: Challenges and Best Practices in State and Local Election Cybersecurity

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

Cyber attacks in the lead up to the 2016 presidential election crystallized the need for state and local governments to focus on the security and integrity of elections. Since that time, officials at all levels have worked to identify ways to ensure our locally-governed election systems are secured against sophisticated threats. This *Route Fifty* digital webcast will explore the state of election cybersecurity ahead of the 2018 midterms, while looking forward to how the nation is preparing for 2020 and beyond. We'll explore election and cyber leaders' biggest challenges and offer best practices in shoring up cyber defenses.

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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