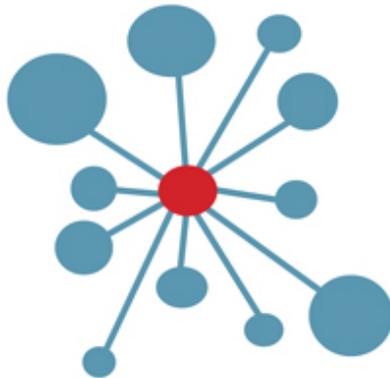




NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

eREGIONS



converge ■ learn ■ share

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

register today!

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

Congress returns September 5th.

Overview

Congress returns to Washington next week with only 12 working days before the end of the fiscal year. Members will come back facing many important deadlines that must be met by the end of September:

- Reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP);
- Renewal of Federal Aviation Administration authority;
- Reauthorization of the state-based Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP);
- The debt ceiling needs to be raised by September 29 to keep the federal government from defaulting on its debts; and
- All appropriations bills must be passed and signed by the president unless they opt to pass a continuing resolution.

There could be a potential standoff between Trump and Congress over **border wall funding**. Alec Phillips, a top Goldman Sachs economist **wrote** in a memo to his clients earlier this month, "Low [presidential] approval ratings raise legislative risks. In the near term, we believe there is a 50% chance of a brief government shutdown, as the president seeks to solidify support among his base by embracing more controversial positions." Last week GOP Leader Paul Ryan said a short-term continuing resolution will most likely be needed to avoid a federal government shutdown. This will push off the deadline for passing the fiscal year 2018 appropriations bills until November or December.

Health care may also come back to the front and center for the remainder of the year. A bipartisan group has been working in Congress to find solutions to stabilize the health care markets.

Hurricane Harvey has quickly become the worst storm Texas has seen in over a decade, if not in their history. **Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner said** that police and fire officials have received more than 6,000 calls for assistance and have rescued more than 1,000 people.

Thousands more have seen disastrous flooding on major highways, city streets, homes, and businesses. Federal, state, and local search and rescue teams are operating 24/7 to reach those stranded in flooded areas. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has more than 400 Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) personnel working to save lives in south Texas. **Governing reports that some Harvey victims turned to social media** when they couldn't reach 9-1-1 operators due the volume of calls. The president is planning to visit Texas on Tuesday, if possible.

Tax Reform Pushed to December

The deadline for tax reform legislation has been pushed yet again to a later date. *Roll Call* **reported** that Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) of the Senate Finance Committee expects to pass tax reform around Christmas Eve. In an interview with *Financial Times*, White House Chief Economic Adviser Gary Cohn also predicts tax reform will be done and signed into law by the end of the year. He said that starting next week, tax reform will be the White House's number one priority. The administration wants to protect three big deductions – charitable, mortgage, and retirement savings – while eliminating state and local tax deductions and other itemized deductions.

CHIP Set to Expire at the End of September

There's one more important deadline that Congress will face when coming back from August recess: the reauthorization of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). CHIP must be renewed by the end of September to sustain federal funding for the nine million low- and middle-income children that rely on this program for health care. With the Senate's focus being primarily on the repeal and replacement of the *Affordable Care Act*, the CHIP reauthorization has been pushed closer to the end of September deadline than normal. Experts, advocates, and senior aides on both sides of the aisle are not worried; however, a Senate Finance Committee meeting on CHIP is expected the first week of September and both sides are confident that the legislation will remain bipartisan.

Three National Monuments Being Considered for Shrinkage

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke recommended that three national monuments should be reduced in size: Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments in Utah and Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in Oregon. The White House did not release Secretary Zinke's report, so the recommendations on the majority of the 22 national monuments he was reviewing is still unknown. The Interior Secretary said these recommendations are a "much needed change for the local communities" bordering these monuments that "rely on the lands" for hunting, economic development, and recreation.

EPA to Host 10 Hearings on WOTUS Rewrite

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) formally proposed back in July to repeal the "waters of the United States (WOTUS)" rule under the *Clean Water Act*, which the agency called too vague and far-reaching. EPA is hosting a series of 10 teleconference meetings this fall to discuss how they should rewrite the rule. Nine of the meetings will discuss specific interests affected by WOTUS, including agriculture, conservation and energy, and construction. The agency is also planning an in-person meeting where local governments, small businesses, and the public can submit their comments.

Administration Advisory Council Troubles

The Trump administration has seen a lot of changes for its advisory councils in recent weeks. Four councils disbanded: the President's Strategic and Policy Forum; Manufacturing Jobs Initiative; President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities; and most recently, the Sustained National Climate Assessment Committee, which *The Washington Post* **covered**. Sixty-nine individuals have resigned from various councils, including the National Infrastructure Advisory Council, President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPPI), and the Digital Economy Board of Advisors. *The Hill* recently **reported** that the government's council on self-driving cars hasn't met since January and has no plans to move forward.

Winter is Coming (Time to Weatherize!)

In the spirit of this past weekend's *Game of Thrones* (GoT) season finale, the U.S. Department of Energy released a video promoting residential energy efficiency and weatherization in true GoT style. This fun video highlights the value of residential energy savings. Check out the video on their **Twitter** and **Facebook** pages.

OTHER NEWS

2020 Census to Determine \$6 Trillion in Funding Over Next 10 Years

A new report has been released by George Washington University to better understand the financial impacts of the 2020 Census for states and local areas. In fiscal year 2015 alone, the report shared that 50 states and D.C. received almost \$600 billion from 16 large Census-guided programs, including Medicaid, Head Start, and Highway Planning and Construction. 15 of out these 16 major programs determined the amount of funding a state received by the 2010 Census count. Datasets derived by the last major Decennial Census were also used by these 16 programs to guide the geographical distribution of funds to local areas.

This study highlights the importance of local government involvement for delivering fair and accurate counts in the 2020 Census. If the count is not accurate, it may cause an inequitable distribution of \$6 trillion in federal financial assistance to communities across the U.S. for 10 years.

New Readiness Assessment Tool for CBOs on Business Acumen

The **Aging and Disability Business Institute**, operated by the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) and a team of partners, has launched a new **Readiness Assessment tool**, a powerful resource that will help community-based organizations (CBOs) determine their capacity and preparedness for engaging in contractual partnerships with health care payers and providers. The interactive tool will walk CBOs through seven different modules covering readiness on key topics that impact health care partnerships, including operations, leadership, management, and more.

All Ages Access: Making Transit Work for Everyone in America's Rapidly Aging Cities

This research brief from TransitCenter explores how cities must respond to changing demographics and how to better serve the aging population. It provides information on aging populations in the 25 largest metropolitan areas and details three ways to improve access to seniors through better paratransit, new services, and improved access to fixed-route transit.

Two Tools for to Help Develop Urban Forestry in Your Community

The U.S. Forest Service has developed two new tools to help plan for and manage urban forest initiatives. The **Urban Tree Database** catalogues urban trees and how they are expected to mature, which can be used to predict how landscapes change over time. This tool helps local leaders decide which urban trees would be the best to share space already taken up by sidewalks, buildings, and power lines in their communities. **UrbanCrowns** is an online assessment tool that helps monitor urban tree growth and health. It can quantify health benefits provided by the urban trees, such as oxygen production, energy conservation, and pollution removal. *Please see the 'Events' section for NARC's upcoming webinar with NADO on tools to help your community incorporate trees in stormwater management plans.*

Interactive Map: How Much Climate Change Will Cost Each U.S. County

Want to see the economic effects that climate change will have on your county? A **study** published in *Science* earlier this summer created an extensive model that breaks down the estimated cost of climate change county by county. *Governing* says the study goes into impressive detail, "linking climate projections with economic effects like mortality, labor productivity, energy demand, and crop yields." The south and portions of the Midwest are expected to be hit the hardest, while northern states bordering Canada are less likely to see a negative economic effect. See ***Governing's interactive map*** to see how your county compares to other U.S. counties.

REGION SPOTLIGHT

SEMORPC Executive Director to Retire

Chauncey Bucheit, executive director for the Southeast Missouri Regional Planning Commission (SEMORPC) since 1980, will be retiring at the end of the year. He held this role for an impressive 37 years. NARC wishes Chauncey a fun and fulfilling retirement!

REGIONS LEAD

Visit www.regionslead.org to read up on the latest NARC blogs. We invite members to

submit blogs to the site too.

The Opioid Crisis Was Declared a National Emergency: Here's How Local Governments Can Help

by Maci Hurley

Two weeks ago, the Trump Administration issued a statement that directed the executive branch to “use all appropriate emergency and other authorities to respond to the crisis caused by the opioid epidemic.” This declaration couldn’t have come any sooner. The National Center for Health Statistics reported that in the third quarter of 2016, overdose deaths reached a record-breaking 19.9 people per 100,000. If this trend continues, our localities will need all the help the federal government can offer to battle this growing epidemic.

NARC Federal Budget Call Recap: Where We Are Now and What to Expect in the Fall

by Maci Hurley

Senators and representatives may be home for recess, but the issues they left in Washington will be here when they return on September 5. Not only will the issues be here, but the urgency to address them will have increased significantly. Top issues that await them include: the adoption of a federal budget, 12 appropriations bills, legislation to raise the debt ceiling, and tax reform.

FEATURED JOBS

View full list of jobs!

Associate Planner

Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization, Fort Lauderdale, FL

Service Coordination Mentor

Alamo Area Council of Governments, San Antonio, TX

FUNDING +

View full list of grants!

HUD Family Self-Sufficiency Program

Applications Due: September 15

This grant opportunity, available under the HUD Family Self-Sufficiency Program (FSS), is available to all public housing authorities and Indian housing authorities. Up to \$75 million is available for salaries of FSS program coordinators across the country. The FSS program promotes the development of local strategies to coordinate the use of assistance under the Housing Choice Voucher and Public Housing programs with public and private resources to enable participating families to increase earned income and financial literacy, reduce, or eliminate the need for welfare assistance, and make progress toward economic independence and self-sufficiency. HUD will only fund applicants that are currently administering a FSS program and meets one of the two following criteria:

- the applicant was funded under any of the FY 2014, FY 2015, and/or the FY 2016 FSS NOFAs, or
- the applicant received an FSS program through a transfer or consolidation from a public housing agency that was funded under these NOFAs.

Call for Proposals: EU-US City-to-City Pairings on Sustainable Urban Development

Applications due: September 22

As part of the **International Urban Cooperation (IUC) initiative**, the European Union (EU) last Friday **launched a call** for U.S. cities to apply to be paired with a city in the EU around issues in sustainable urban development. U.S. cities who wish to exchange with an EU city facing related challenges are encouraged to apply for this IUC city-to-city cooperation program on sustainable urban development. Through the program, local leaders and municipal technical experts will be able to connect and gain new perspectives on pressing sustainable development issues. Representatives from each city will take part in study tours, staff exchange, trainings and seminars, and will design a local action plan to drive sustainable urban development. Please direct questions to info@iuc-na.eu.

Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant Program

Applications Due: November 22

Applicants can be awarded up to \$30 million under the Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grants Program. This program supports the implementation of comprehensive neighborhood revitalization plans that are expected to achieve the following three core goals:

- *Housing*: Replace distressed public and assisted housing with high-quality mixed-income housing that is well-managed and responsive to the needs of the surrounding neighborhood;
- *People*: Improve intergenerational mobility with a focus on children and families, employment, health, and education outcomes; and
- *Neighborhood*: Create the conditions necessary for public and private reinvestment in distressed neighborhoods to offer the kinds of amenities and assets, including safety, good schools, and commercial activity, that are important to families and choices about their community.

EVENTS

[View full list of events!](#)

Eno's Asset Recycle Webinar

August 29, 10:00-11:00 AM ET

America's struggle to build and renew its roads, airports, water treatment facilities, public buildings, and other infrastructure projects is old news. There is a constant drumbeat of news reports discussing our dilapidated bridges, inability to raise the federal gas tax, and the United States' declining global competitiveness. Solutions and success stories, however, are rarely part of the discussion. One important example of a possible way to address some of our infrastructure woes is a strategy known as asset recycling. Asset recycling is a system in which governments lease existing infrastructure to private entities. The fees generated from the lease are then used to invest in other infrastructure projects.

The most prominent example of where this tool has been used is in Australia. Between 2015 and 2017, that country's **Asset Recycling Initiative** (ARI) helped finalize agreements with its states and territories worth nearly \$3 billion. These funds unlocked over \$17 billion in infrastructure spending. Eno is honored to host Australian Ambassador Joe Hockey and Jennifer Aument from Transurban for a webinar discussion on asset recycling in Australia and its potential here in the U.S.

Regional Planning and Economic Modeling: A Dialogue with Leading Experts

August 29, 12:00-1:00 PM ET

As technology, regulation and industries rapidly change, RPCs, MPOs, COGs, and other transportation planning organizations are facing unprecedented challenges and opportunities in leveraging their regional assets for broad-based economic growth. Regional Economic Models, Inc. (REMI) will be hosting a webinar to discuss the role that macroeconomic modeling and analysis plays in the planning process for some of REMI's most innovative transportation planning clients. They will be joined by two NARC members: the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC). Their talks will cover the development of long-term employment and population projection, the process to select spending projects based on their distinct economic impacts, and the ability to incorporate economic impacts with land-use modeling.

Reinventing Resident Engagement Through Wellness in Senior Living

August 29, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

Today's 21st Century senior housing residents are active and highly focused on wellness. Given the technology available, these residents can track, collect, and improve on their health metrics — just as tools like the Fitbit and Apple Watch have taken the mainstream by storm. Stanford's Center on Longevity and the International Council on Active Aging are redefining what it means to be active in a digital world as a half hour of chair exercise will no longer satisfy the increasingly tech-savvy residents and their families. In this webinar sponsored by CDW Healthcare, learn what "active lifestyle" means today, what the expectations are in lifestyle programming, and how you can hear ideas and bring them to your community.

Funding Opportunity: Create Economic Opportunities Out of Reclaimed Coal Mines Webinar

August 30, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

The new “Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Pilot Program” will invest \$105 million in projects that clean up abandoned coal sites and are linked to economic or community development on or around reclaimed coal sites. Join NACo, NADO, federal officials and local representatives to learn more about this funding opportunity in PA, OH, VA, KY, WV, and AL, and how you can work with your state mine reclamation agency to leverage these funds to clean up abandoned coal sites and help realize economic development ideas in your local area. Potential projects could include agriculture (vineyards, orchards, aquaponics systems, etc.), renewable energy, recreational tourism, or many other projects on reclaimed coal sites.

The State and Local Government Cyber Threat Landscape

September 7, 1:00-2:00 PM ET

More than 29 million records that were records stolen or exposed in 858 publicized breaches from across all industry sectors in 2016 – a 38% increase in cybersecurity incidents according to IDG. Each breach cost on average more than \$7 million in the U.S. – or \$220 per record. While the statistics on cybercrime are mindboggling, there are very real ways law enforcement and justice professionals can arm themselves to fight the very real war on cybercrime. And the first step is to become informed.

Join Justice Clearinghouse for their half-yearly update on the changing and emerging cyber threats local and regional government law enforcement organizations should be aware of; profiling cybercriminals; the tactics this unique type of criminal uses; and what should local government leaders need to know to combat these perpetrators and protect their own organizations.

NARC Webinar! Trees, Stormwater, and Resiliency: An Opportunity for Local Communities

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

Traditional ‘gray’ infrastructure systems – like roads, utilities, and water/wastewater networks – have long supported our cities and towns as they grow and develop. However, as leaders grapple with shrinking budgets and deteriorating local infrastructure, the resilience and multifunctionality of green infrastructure and trees continues to broaden its appeal as a fiscally responsible investment for the long-term health and vibrancy of an area. A new interactive tool developed by the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Council of Governments in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, NARC, Davey Resource Group, and Centerline Strategies, LLC will enable community planners, engineers, stormwater managers, community foresters, and policymakers to better capitalize on trees when investing or reinvesting in their stormwater systems.

This resource can help you unleash new and innovative approaches for realizing the full capacity of trees as a component of your community’s infrastructure systems. Join us for this webinar to discuss regional resilience planning and how TreesandStormwater.org can assist you in maximizing the benefits of trees and green infrastructure in your community.

CONTACT US

Copyright © 2017 National Association of Regional Councils, All rights reserved.

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)