

September 4, 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. See our most recent conference agenda draft [here](#).

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](mailto:marcy@narc.org).

## **NEWS FROM WASHINGTON**

*Congress is in session.*

In two months, Americans will be casting their votes for a new Congress – the 116th. In the meantime, the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress has just eleven business days to pass some very important legislation, including a funding bill to keep the federal government open beyond September 30th.

Significant differences exist between the House and Senate on how to move forward on some funding and program issues, including how to pay for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and what work requirement and eligibility standard reforms, if any, should be made to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Short-term extensions for NFIP and the Farm Bill are likely to be the solution.

The Senate will also have to make some decisions on how to proceed with the nomination of Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court, especially if the majority wants him to be seated before the Court convenes on the first Monday in October. Much floor time could be used up in Senate debate over this nomination that little time will be left for anything else, including appropriations.

September in Washington should prove to be a very interesting month. We will be sure to keep you updated with all the latest developments. For a presentation on what we expect to happen in Congress this fall, watch our latest NARC legislative briefing [here](#).

### **Congress Directs More Money to MPOs**

NARC and its local government association partners have urged appropriators and other congressional leaders to direct additional funding (beyond what the FAST Act provided) to the Surface Transportation Program (STP). We have sought more formula highway funds, through metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), directed to local areas and local decision-makers. As a result, Congress directed \$1.9 billion in additional funds to STP in FY 2018, and is poised to provide another increase in FY 2019. STP funding for MPOs in FY 2019 could be as much as 46 percent higher than FY 2017 and 18 percent higher than FY 2018 levels. NARC encourages our MPO members to reach out to their federal delegation to thank them for the increases in the STP program in FY 2018 and urge them to highlight the importance of additional funding in FY 2019.

### **Farm Bill Conference Committee Sets Public Meeting Date**

The Senate and House Agriculture Committee members have set a time and date for the 2018 Farm Bill Conference Committee public meeting: tomorrow, September 5th. This gives us perhaps our only opportunity to see how negotiations are progressing on the 2018 Farm Bill reauthorization, since most conference committee meetings happen behind closed doors. Leading into the public meeting, *Bloomberg Government* reported that Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Pat Roberts (R-KS) said some real progress has been made in working out the differences between the House and Senate Farm Bill language, including the nutrition title. However, the conservative House Freedom Caucus has doubled down their support for work requirements for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients.

### **Senate to Take Up Opioids Bill Package After Labor Day**

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) said the Senate may be ready to take up a package of bills addressing the opioid crisis as soon as this week. The pressure on lawmakers to carry out legislative action to curb the opioid crisis is mounting, with an estimated 72,000 drug overdose-related deaths in 2017 alone. The *Opioid Crisis Response Act of 2018 (S. 2680)* leads the Senate's opioid crisis legislation package. The Senate bills are not expected to include some key policy changes that were in the House-approved (**H.R. 6**) opioid crisis package, including changes to privacy rules for drug treatment records and an expansion of Medicaid reimbursement for some inpatient drug treatment services. If this package is passed through the Senate, it is likely the two chambers are going to have to conference to sort out the differences between the packages before the end of the year.

### **Appropriations Update**

Now that the House is back from August recess, we can expect a lot of movement on the appropriations front, with both chambers rushing to pass their appropriations bills by the September 30 deadline. The House and Senate are hoping to finally hold a formal conference meeting to resolve the differences between each chamber's three-bill package (**H.R. 5895**) that includes Military Construction-Veterans Affairs, Energy and Water, and Legislative Branch appropriations bills. It is likely that conference committees resolving the differences between other appropriations bills passed by both chambers – Defense, Financial Services-General Government, and Interior-Environment – could soon follow. As of this week, the Senate has passed nine appropriations bills and the House has passed six. Neither chamber has yet considered the Homeland Security, State-Foreign Operations, or Commerce-Justice-Science bills on the floor.

### **EPA Releases WOTUS Rule Status and Litigation Update**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Army Corps of Engineers have continued to review the decision the U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina made to vacate and nationally enjoin the agencies' **final rule that added an applicability date** to the 2015 Clean Water Rule, also known as the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule. That has put the 2015 Clean Water Rule in effect for 26 states, D.C., and the U.S. territories. All other states are still operating under pre-2015 issues and guidance. The agencies have filed motions appealing the order and are seeking a stay of the court's decision. Until then, they are complying with the court's order and handling implementation issues on a case-by-case basis.

## **OTHER NEWS**

## **A Year After Hurricane Harvey, Congress Still Hasn't Improved U.S. Flood Policy**

In the year since Hurricane Harvey battered the Gulf Coast and caused \$125 billion in damage, many communities in the area have made considerable efforts to both recover from the storm and prepare for the next one. Although Congress provided significant funding to reduce risk in areas affected, there is still much more that the federal government could do to encourage cost-effective mitigation before we see another mega-storm. Congress should adopt a long-term reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program; enact the updates to rates, program administration, mapping, and mitigation the program needs; and come up with a solution to the program's \$20 billion debt to the U.S. Treasury. Federal lawmakers should pass policies mandating all federally-funded projects to account for flood risk in new construction. Congress should also create a self-sustaining fund for pre-disaster mitigation that could be administered by states through low-interest loans, tailored to local needs, and could finance a wide range of mitigation projects.

## **MEMBERSHIP REQUESTS**

### **Strategic Alignment of Committees**

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) would like to connect with other MPOs and regional councils who have updated their committee structures after the development of a new long-range or strategic plan. If your organization has experience in planning and implementing strategic committee-level changes and would be willing to share materials or lessons learned in the process, please contact Sarah Reed at [sarah@narc.org](mailto:sarah@narc.org).

### **Consolidated Planning Grant Matching Funds**

The Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) is seeking input on how other MPOs handle Consolidated Planning Grant (CPG) matching funds. They are particularly interested in knowing what percentage of the match you provide for CPGs is cash versus in-kind services. DRCOG is considering changing their cash/in-kind ratio and would like information on what other organizations provide. Please send your responses to Erich Zimmermann at [erich@narc.org](mailto:erich@narc.org).

### **Regional City/County Managers Group**

The Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG) in Durham, NC is seeking information from others on if they host city/county manager regional meetings. If you do, TJCOG is interested in how often the group meets, how meetings are structured, and any other information about your group and how it operates that you'd like to share. If your region participates or hosts city/county manager groups or meetings, please contact Sarah Reed at [sarah@narc.org](mailto:sarah@narc.org).

## **FEATURED JOBS**

*[View full list of jobs!](#)*

### **Regional Planning Positions**

Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments, Waterbury, CT

### **Grants Compliance Officer**

NYC Department of Transportation, New York, NY

### **Emergency Medical Services Director**

Cleveland County, Shelby, NC

### **Deputy Director/Chief Financial Officer**

Denver Urban Renewal Authority, Denver, CO

### **Director of Regional Planning**

Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada, Las Vegas, NV

## **FUNDING**

*[View full list of grants!](#)*

### **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.

### **Fiscal Year 2018 Gang Suppression Planning Grants Program**

Applications Due: October 4

The 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. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention is seeking proposals from applicant jurisdictions that have high levels of youth perpetrated gun crime and gang violence and that can demonstrate a willingness and readiness to develop fully comprehensive, community- and data-driven responses. Funding will support selected jurisdictions to undertake strategic planning and capacity-building work through multidisciplinary and community partnerships.

### **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.

### **Historic Preservation Fund Grants to Underrepresented Communities**

Applications Due: November 1

This National Park Service grant program supports the survey, inventory, and designation of historic properties that are associated with communities currently underrepresented in the National Register of Historic Places and among National Historic Landmarks. Within one year of the completion of the grant, all projects must result in: the submission of a new nomination to the National Register of Historic Places or National Historic Landmark program OR an amendment to an existing National Register or National Historic Landmark nomination to include underrepresented communities.

## **EVENTS**

*[View full list of events!](#)*

### **NARC F4F Webinar! Cooperative Procurement Opportunities**

Fleets for the Future (F4F) is a national project team, led by NARC, of regional councils, Clean Cities coalitions, and industry experts tasked with coordinating regional and national procurement initiatives to consolidate bulk orders of alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) and infrastructure. Please join the F4F team for this final project webinar to learn about alternative fuel vehicle cooperative procurement opportunities available to public fleets. There will be a Q&A session following the presentation.

### **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.

### **Growing America's Economy with Energy Efficiency**

September 6, 3:00-4:00 PM ET

Improving efficiency offers multiple benefits that span the economy by lowering energy costs for families, industry, and businesses; creating jobs; and helping states cost-effectively meet clean air goals. Efficiency has become a major job driver, employing more than two million Americans and accounting for more than half of the jobs added in the energy sector last year. During this National Conference of State Legislatures webinar, presenters will explore the economic and job creation benefits that energy efficiency efforts can provide. They will also discuss state policy actions that can encourage economic growth and job creation through efficiency.

### **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.

### **Local Efforts Supporting Innovation in Early Childhood Development**

The National Association of Counties (NACo) invites you to participate in a webinar highlighting local innovations and best practice models in early childhood development. Counties play a critical role in shaping early childhood systems and are instrumental in investing in core services supporting young children and families. To ensure that children are developmentally on track at age three and to improve kindergarten school readiness, communities must drive increased attention on prenatal-to-three initiatives and the critical need for early investments around programs and services that ensure a healthy start at birth, provide support to families of infants and toddlers, and provide high-quality child care and early learning opportunities.

### **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.

### **What Do Citizens Want from Digital Government Services?**

October 11, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

From shopping to learning to connecting with friends and more, a big part of citizens' lives is now conducted online. In this environment, state and local governments are challenged to deliver digital experiences that meet sky-high citizen expectations. According to new research conducted by the Center for Digital Government (CDG) and sponsored by Conduent, 62 percent of citizens think governments should experiment with new technology offerings. *Government Technology* and the Center for Digital Government will be unpacking these research findings to better understand citizens' preferences and priorities and discussing how government organizations can best tailor their digital interactions.

### **Increasing the Number of People with Mental Illnesses Connected to Treatment**

October 25, 2:00-3:15 PM ET

Part of the Stepping Up framework encourages counties to focus their efforts on impacting one or more of "Four Key Measures" for people with mental illnesses: jail bookings, jail length of stay, connections to treatment, and recidivism. Join Stepping Up for the third webinar in the Four Key Measures series, which will provide strategies for increasing the number of people with mental illnesses connected to treatment in jails and in the community and describe key data points to collect and analyze to track this measure of success. Previous webinars in this series are available in the **Stepping Up toolkit**.

### **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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