



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

eREGIONS

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

Congress is in session.

Senate Majority Leader Expects to Act on Funding Extension

Majority Leader Mitch McConnell announced today that he expects the Senate to work on a Continuing Resolution to extend federal funding until December 9 at the fiscal year 2016 spending levels and include funding for Zika control and veterans programs. A dispute over Planned Parenthood's role in treating women infected with the Zika virus has meant that Congress has not acted on funding despite the cases identified in Florida over the congressional recess.

WRDA on Senate Schedule this Week

The Senate intends to complete work on the *Water Resources Development Act* (WRDA; **S 2848**) this week although House action is unclear. The \$10.6 billion bill would approve more than two dozen new U.S. Army Corps of Engineers flood protection and water projects and federal funding to address the Flint, Michigan lead pipes. NARC supports the Senate bill and has joined a large coalition urging House and Senate members to pass the legislation before they adjourn.

DOL Overtime Rules

A coalition of business groups urged lawmakers to hold a floor vote on legislation to phase in the U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) new rules for employee overtime. The DOL rule takes effect in December which doubles the salary threshold for overtime. Join NARC's Executive Directors Conference in South Bend, Indiana for an update on the new rules. If Congress was able to pass the delay, President Obama would likely veto the measure.

Regulatory Activities Transparency

The House will vote this week on legislation requiring federal agencies to provide more information on regulatory activities. The bill, the *Regulatory Integrity Act* (**HR 5226**) is in response to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) efforts to promote their Waters of the US ruling which the General Accountability Office found violated federal law. NARC has joined with local government colleagues in urging EPA to delay the ruling and consult with local governments on its impact.

Latest Ozone Standard Proposal

NARC continues to follow the status of EPA's latest ozone standard proposal, which lowered the legal ozone standard to 70 parts per billion from 75. Final briefs are due this week in lawsuits related to the EPA move.

Letter to Reauthorize EPA's Brownfields Program this Year

NARC, the National League of Cities, National Association of Counties (NACo), and U.S. Conference of Mayors today sent a letter encouraging the House to reauthorize and strengthen the EPA Brownfields program before Congress adjourns for the year.

Small Communities Still Feeling Effects of Great Recession

On behalf of NACo, Riley County, KS Commissioner Robert Boyd **testified** last Thursday before the U.S. House Subcommittee on Small Business on the economic challenges facing rural counties.

Boyd noted that national and statewide statistics often mask on-the-ground realities. Citing indicators measured in **NACo's County Economies report**, Boyd said, "Only 7 percent of county economies have fully recovered to pre-recession levels." Boyd also emphasized the need for improved collaboration and flexibility from our intergovernmental partners at the federal and state levels. If we can achieve that, he said, "We can continue to provide the public services and basic infrastructure needed for economic growth and prosperity."

OTHER NEWS

NTIA, NSF Seek Comments to Shape National Broadband Research Agenda

Comments Due: October 11

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the National Science Foundation (NSF) are requesting **public comments** that will inform the National Broadband Research Agenda. The public's input will help to improve data collection, analysis, and research for the benefit of broadband policy development, program implementation, and program evaluation. They are seeking input in four areas: (1) Broadband technology, (2) Broadband access and adoption, (3) Socioeconomic impacts, and (4) Opportunities for federal leadership. Some of the questions they are asking are: What research proposals regarding broadband access should be prioritized? How can cross-disciplinary collaboration in broadband research be enhanced? What is needed to understand how to reach population groups that have traditionally under-utilized broadband technology? They encourage all who wish to advance broadband in America through new or improved research and data collection to weigh in. Those who want to provide input should submit comments to NBRARfc2016@ntia.doc.gov.

BroadbandUSA Tool Kit

BroadbandUSA, a program of the U.S. Department of Commerce, has released a **new toolkit** to assist local leaders in stakeholder outreach when planning projects to improve broadband access and adoption in their communities. The toolkit details strategies for community leaders to identify key constituencies for broadband projects, and how to open a dialog and gain buy-in from those groups. It outlines a five-step process to effectively engage with stakeholders, which may include existing broadband providers, community organizations, such as the local chambers of commerce or nonprofits that serve local residents, government officials, and potential funders of a project.

For communities who need further technical assistance in their broadband efforts, additional toolkits are available from BroadbandUSA, including **Planning a Community Broadband Roadmap**, **Guide to Federal Funding of Broadband Projects**, **Introduction to Effective Public-Private Partnerships** and a **Broadband Adoption Toolkit**.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

MAG Domestic Violence Protocol Evaluation Project

The Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) Protocol Evaluation Project is part of MAG's Regional Plan to End Domestic Violence. The project includes evaluating current protocols, developing public awareness tools, and building a framework of promising practices. It was designed to assess law enforcement and prosecutors practices and protocols in response to domestic violence offenders at the misdemeanor level. The project has compiled several presentations, videos, and resources that are available online as an example to other municipalities on how to improve their domestic violence response. MAG also has a Regional Domestic Violence Council made up of various stakeholders that works to implement the recommendations from the plan.

The YSEALI Professional Fellows Program

The **International City/County Management Association (ICMA)**, with funding from the U.S. Department of State, is offering the Fall 2016 Professional Fellows Program – an opportunity for young professionals from Southeast Asia to learn about a variety of topics such as environmental sustainability, good governance, economic development, and civic engagement through a four week fellowship with a host U.S. organization. Fellows are part of President Obama's **Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI)**, a program that strengthens leadership development and networking in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), deepens engagement with young leaders on key regional and global challenges, and strengthens people-to-people ties between the United States and young Southeast Asian leaders.

Organizations interested in participating in this program are expected to host two fellows each from October 15 through November 12. This is a reciprocal exchange. Selected hosts will have the opportunity to nominate a staff member to travel for two weeks to a Southeast Asian community post-program to deliver technical assistance and consultation to help engage citizens and civil society organizations. There are no fees associated with hosting fellows. Travel, accommodations, and a stipend for meals and incidentals for the fellows are covered by the program. There is, however, a cost share/in-kind contribution requirement. If you would like to learn more, please contact the program coordinator, Yelena Khotsevitch. She may be reached via email, lkhotsevitch@icma.org, or by phone, 202-962-3597.

FEATURED JOBS

View full list of jobs!

Senior Planner – Regional & Subregional Planning

North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, Newark, NJ

Watershed Planner

Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments, Toledo, OH

Finance Director

Sacramento Area Council of Governments, Sacramento, CA

FUNDING

View full list of grants!

Give Your Members FREE Access to GrantFinder

EfficientGov's GrantFinder tracks more than 7,000 federal, state and, foundation grants for specifically for municipalities - more than 50 regional commissions are using it to find grant funding for their members. Through the end of 2016, when you purchase a multi-user subscription to GrantFinder, all of your member cities can have access for one year at no cost – a \$995 value! Schedule an online demo today by visiting us at <http://grantfinder.com>.

Call to Action: Every Body Walk! Collaborative Micro Grants

America Walks and the Every Body Walk! Collaborative are pleased to announce a new micro grant program designed to assist local walking advocates build on the momentum of the newly released Surgeon General's Call to Action. This one time award will fund 10-15 community groups up to \$2500.00 for activities designed to increase local walking programming and stimulate community demand for infrastructure improvements that provide accessible, safe walkable places for the entire community. Grant applications (link below) are due by 5:00pm ET on October 15, 2015.

EVENTS

View full list of events!

Live Streaming Event! Promoting Economic Mobility: Putting Evidence to Action for Communities

September 14, 8:45 AM-12:45 PM ET

Watch live as U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch and Office of Management and Budget Director Shaun Donovan discuss what we can do to promote upward mobility. The Urban Institute, in collaboration with the Citi Foundation, invites you to a discussion on innovative strategies and practices that promote upward mobility. They will focus on the need to identify and address barriers that prevent individuals and families from moving up the economic ladder. They will also explore emerging research and place-conscious practices for cities, neighborhoods, and workplaces.

NARC Event! 2016 Executive Directors Conference and Board Retreat

EDC: September 18-20 – South Bend, IN

Board Retreat: September 20-21 – South Bend, IN

Join NARC and the Michiana Area Council of Governments for the 2016 Executive Directors Conference in South Bend, Indiana. This conference brings executive directors, deputy directors,

and senior staff together to network, share best practices, and explore opportunities for strengthening professional capacity and development.

CONTACT US

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