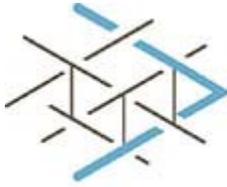


Email not displaying correctly? Click [HERE](#) to view it as a PDF.



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XIII, No. 35, September 16, 2013

eRegions

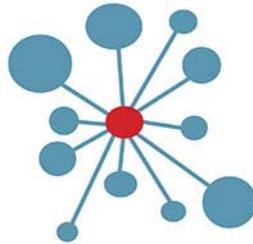
EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

Our thoughts are with the families and friends of those hurt and killed at the Navy Yard shooting here in D.C. today.

With respect to Congressional action, we are bumping up against the need for a spending bill to keep the government open after October 1. Four big events are driving a possible government shutdown. The first two are tied to the October 1st deadline to pass a spending measure with pressure from House Republicans to tie Federal funding to the defunding of the Affordable Care Act. The third event is the debt ceiling debate and the

[PROGRAM UPDATE](#) [POLICY UPDATE](#)
[GRANT OPPORTUNITIES](#) [UPCOMING EVENTS](#)



converge ■ learn ■ share

**executive directors' conference
september 30 - october 1, 2013
santa monica, ca**

Agenda, Registration and Hotel Information

Click [HERE](#) to access the conference website.

PROGRAM UPDATE

Upcoming Regional Solar Workshops: NARC is hosting free interactive workshops that provide regions with actionable information on creating a local-level solar program. Find out if NARC is coming to a city near you! Click [HERE](#) for more information.

- *Boston, MA:* September 26, 2013

NARC and NLC Host Webinar - MPOs 101: Understanding Your Metropolitan Planning Organization on Monday, September 23rd from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm ET: According to the Federal Highway

fourth the looming Sequester for 2014. We've been urging Congressional action on repealing the Sequester for over a year while agencies, in the interim, are preparing for more cuts. Additionally, with only 37 legislative days left in 2013 Congress has to move on major authorizations. However, the Farm Bill is stalling as Congress debates deep cuts in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and authorization of the Workforce Investment Act may stall despite Senate introduced legislation.

With only a few weeks left until the Executive Directors' Conference I urge you to register. We have three great confirmed speakers and time for Directors and senior staff to engage, meet and share.

Best,
Fred

NARCLEADERSHIP

President

Hon. Penny Gross

Supervisor,
Fairfax County, VA

Chair Jim Hassinger,
Executive Directors Council
Executive Director,
Southwestern Pennsylvania

Administration, metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) are regional policy bodies required in urbanized areas with populations over 50,000. MPOs are responsible for cooperating with the state and other transportation providers for carrying out the metropolitan transportation planning requirements of federal highway and transit legislation. MPO's unique position to prioritize and implement regional transportation plans make them a critical partner for elected officials in meeting community goals. This webinar will outline everything a local elected official needs to know about MPOs ranging from their role as a transportation planning entity to what various structures of MPOs look like to how they are funded to how local elected officials can help strengthen their impact. Click [HERE](#) to learn more and to register.

POLICYUPDATE

Congress is in session.

Crucial Farm Bill Vote Expected this Week in the House: According to House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, the chamber should vote on the nutrition-aid portion of the Farm Bill later this week. House Leadership has delayed conference with the Senate on a long-term reauthorization until both the agriculture and nutrition portions of the bill receive approval. The House rejected a consolidated measure earlier this summer before approving an agriculture-only bill in July. The Senate approved their version of a long-term Farm Bill reauthorization in June. More information on Farm Bill efforts is available [HERE](#).

Obama Nominates Former Youngstown, Ohio Mayor Jay Williams for New Position at U.S. Department of Commerce: Last week President Obama nominated Mayor Jay Williams to fill a new position as Assistant Secretary for Economic Development at the Department of Commerce. In this role, Williams will head up the Economic Development Administration. Previously, Williams directed Obama Administration programs aimed at helping communities affected by the auto-industry downturn and later served as the White House Deputy Director for Intergovernmental Affairs. NARC will continue to provide updates as the confirmation process moves forward through the Senate.

GRANTOPPORTUNITIES

Resilient Cities Centennial Challenge

Commission

NARCSTAFF

Fred Abousleman

Executive Director

Shannon Baxevanis

Deputy Director

Autumn Campbell

Director of Community
Programs

Mia Colson

Program Analyst

Bridget Gribbin

Intern

Lindsey Riley

Deputy of Communications

Anna Rosenbaum

Communications Associate

To access past issues of
eRegions, **visit our**
website.

Make NARC your
homepage —
click here to learn how.

Registration Deadline: September 23, 2013

The Rockefeller Foundation announced \$100 million in funding for technical support for developing and implementing plans for urban resilience in 100 cities across the globe. Click **HERE** to register for more application information.

EPA to provide Design Assistance

Letter of Interest Due: September 23, 2013

EPA's Office of Sustainable Communities is seeking letters of interest from state capital cities interested in receiving design assistance to create an implementable vision of distinctive, environmentally friendly neighborhoods. Learn more about this program **HERE**.

The Rockefeller Foundation – 100 Resilient Cities, Centennial Challenge

Registration to Apply by September 23, 2013

The Rockefeller Foundation has launched the 100 Resilient Cities Centennial Challenge aimed at enabling 100 cities to better address the increasing shocks and stresses of the 21st century. One hundred cities from across the globe will be selected to receive technical support and resources for developing and implementing plans for urban resilience. Challenge applicants may include municipal governments or major institutions (e.g., a nonprofit organization, university, chamber of commerce, or research center) that have a predominant affiliation/association with the city and demonstrate collaborative partnership with a municipal government. Interested applicants must **REGISTER** to apply by September 23 to receive the application. The full application is due October 14, 2013. More information is **HERE**.

EPA Accepting Applications for Clean Air Award Program

Applications Due: September 27, 2013

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is accepting applications for its **Clean Air Excellence Awards**. This award honors outstanding and innovative efforts to help make progress toward achieving cleaner air. Award-winning entries must directly or indirectly reduce pollutant emissions, demonstrate innovation, offer sustainable outcomes and provide a model for others to follow. **Past winners** include the City and County of Greenville, SC; the Maricopa County Air Quality Department; the Metropolitan Transportation Commission; and many others. You can apply **HERE**.

U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) - Paleo Perspectives on Climate Change

Due Date: October 15, 2013

The goal of research funded under the interdisciplinary P2C2 solicitation is to utilize key geological, chemical, atmospheric, and biological records of climate system variability to provide insights into the mechanisms and rate of change that characterized Earth's past climate variability, the sensitivity of Earth's climate system to changes in forcing, and the response of key components of the Earth system to these changes. Click [HERE](#) for details.

Office Depot Foundation

Application Deadline: May 1 – October 31, 2013

The Office Depot Foundation is offering grant support to nonprofit organizations, government agencies, libraries, and schools that bring systemic change to the communities they serve. The Foundation provides grants averaging \$1,000 in three distinct categories. The focus of the "Giving Children Tools for Success" category is on activities that give young people tools to succeed in school and in life through education and inspiration. The "Building Capacity to Serve Communities" category targets programs that help nonprofit organizations to serve the needs of their communities efficiently. The purpose of the "Disaster Preparedness, Relief, Recovery, and Rebuilding" category is to support efforts that help people and communities prepare for disasters and rebuild and recover when disasters occur. Applications will be accepted from May 1 through October 31, 2013. Click [HERE](#) to review the guidelines.

U.S. Department of Agriculture – Rural Community Investment Initiative

Deadline: November 12, 2013

The USDA is seeking applications for grants that will be awarded to organizations to help rural businesses create jobs and spur economic development. USDA is making \$5.6 million available through the Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI), a program that generates economic activity in rural areas. Applications must be submitted to the USDA Rural Development state office where the applicant's headquarters are located. Information is available [HERE](#).

NOAA - Climate Program Office FY 2014

November 14, 2013

NOAA advances scientific and technical programs to help society cope

with, and adapt to, today's variations in climate and prepare for tomorrow's. Toward this end, the agency conducts and supports climate research, essential oceanic and atmospheric observations, modeling, information management, assessments, interdisciplinary decision support research, outreach, education, and stakeholder partnership development. The full announcement of opportunity is available on the [Grants.Gov](#) website. Click [HERE](#) for information.

Community Forest Program Grant

Application Due: January 15, 2014

The US Forest Service's Community Forest Program (CFP) protects forests that are important for people and the places they call home. CFP provides funding to local governments, tribal governments and nonprofits to establish community forests that provide continuing and accessible community benefits. Click [HERE](#) for more information about available funding.

NSF - Cyber-Physical Systems

Due Date: January 29, 2014

The National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have a shared interest in advancing basic and applied research in Cyber Physical Systems (CPS), which are systems in which physical processes are tightly intertwined with networked computing. For transportation, CPS will provide the foundation necessary for a safe, efficient highway transportation system connecting vehicles, infrastructure, people, and goods in a vibrant, competitive economy. More information is available [HERE](#).

NSF - Cyber-Enabled Sustainability Science and Engineering

Due Date: February 4, 2014

The Cyber-Enabled Sustainability Science and Engineering (CyberSEES) program aims to advance interdisciplinary research in which the science and engineering of sustainability are enabled by new advances in computing, and where computational innovation is grounded in the context of sustainability problems. More information is available [HERE](#).

Energy for Sustainability

Due Date: February 20, 2014

This program supports fundamental research and education that will enable innovative processes for the sustainable production of electricity and transportation fuels. Processes for sustainable energy

production must be environmentally benign, reduce greenhouse gas production, and utilize renewable resources. Current interest areas in sustainable energy technologies are: Biomass Conversion, Biofuels & Bioenergy, Photovoltaic Solar Energy, Wind Energy, and Advanced Batteries for Transportation. Learn more about this program [HERE](#).

NSF - Environmental Sustainability

Due Date: March 20, 2014

The Environmental Sustainability program supports engineering research that seeks to balance society's need to provide ecological protection and maintain stable economic conditions. Research in Environmental Sustainability typically considers long time horizons and may incorporate contributions from the social sciences and ethics. There are four principal general research areas which are supported: Industrial Ecology, Green Engineering, Ecological Engineering, Earth Systems Engineering. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

UPCOMINGEVENT

Census Bureau to Announce Findings for Income, Poverty and Health Insurance Coverage

Tuesday, September 17, 10:00 am EST

The U.S. Census Bureau will hold an audio news conference to announce the findings from its report: *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2012*. This annual report contains the official national findings from the Current Population Survey. The Web conference will consist of a simultaneous audio conference and online presentation. Questions and answers are limited to the media. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

EPA Webinar: Smart Growth and Economic Success

September 18, 2013, 3:00 - 4:00 EST

This webinar will explore how smart growth strategies at the regional, city, and neighborhood level can maximize economic advantages while creating attractive, healthy communities that help protect the environment. This webinar will feature EPA's report, *Smart Growth and Economic Success: Benefits for Real Estate Developers, Investors, Businesses, and Local Government*. Speakers will discuss how smart growth is helping their communities prosper. Click [HERE](#) for details or to register.

NARC and NLC Webinar - MPOs 101: Understanding Your Metropolitan Planning Organization

Monday, September 23rd from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm (EST)

According to the Federal Highway Administration, metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) are regional policy bodies required in urbanized areas with populations over 50,000. MPOs are responsible for cooperating with the state and other transportation providers for carrying out the metropolitan transportation planning requirements of federal highway and transit legislation. MPO's unique position to prioritize and implement regional transportation plans make them a critical partner for elected officials in meeting community goals. This webinar will outline everything a local elected official needs to know about MPOs ranging from their role as a transportation planning entity to what various structures of MPOs look like to how they are funded to how local elected officials can help strengthen their impact. Click [HERE](#) to learn more and to register.

EPA Webinar: Infrastructure Financing for Transit-Oriented Development

September 24, 2013, 3:00 - 4:00 ET

NEW. Transit-oriented development (TOD) offers a mix of housing, employment, shopping, and transportation choices that can help reduce air pollution and development on open lands and improve water quality and access to jobs. Yet the infrastructure required to create TOD is expensive and funding for infrastructure for new TOD can be difficult to obtain. This webinar will cover some of the lessons learned from a year-long Smart Growth Implementation Assistance project on financing TOD infrastructure. Speakers from the Utah Transit Authority and the NoMa Business Improvement District in Washington, DC will then discuss TOD in their communities. Click [HERE](#) for details or to register.

Safe Routes to School National Partnership Webinar - Voices for Healthy Kids: Active Places

Thursday, Sept. 26: 2-3 p.m. EST

Childhood obesity affects the entire country, but it does not affect all communities equally. Children and all people living in underserved communities are likely to face greater challenges in reversing patterns of inactivity and poor health. The [Safe Routes to School National Partnership](#) is very pleased to be partnering with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and American Heart Association on the new [Voices for Healthy Kids](#) initiative to reverse childhood obesity by

2015. For this webinar, we are also partnering with Active Living Research to present information on increasing physical activity opportunities in underserved communities with a specific focus on reducing disparities and increasing activity in lower-income communities and communities of color. To register for this free webinar, click [HERE](#).

NARC's Executive Directors' Conference

September 29-October 2, 2013, Santa Monica, CA

Join the Southern California Association of Governments and NARC for the 2013 Executive Directors' Conference in Santa Monica, CA. Executive Directors and Senior Staff are invited to meet with experts, network with your colleagues, and share best practices in management, programs, finance, budget, governance and other issues of importance to you. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Large Acreage Conservation Financing Webinar

October 9, 1:00-3:15 PM ET

Join the Northeastern Area Forest Legacy Program to learn about financing Conservation Easement Monitoring. This webinar will address key questions about different funding mechanisms, including: what are the national financing trends; what are the options for long term financing; how is financing established, managed and calculated; and are these mechanisms effective tools? Click [HERE](#) to register for the webinar.

ICMA Webinar: Iceberg Dead Ahead: Course Correction Leadership

October 17, 1:00-2:30 p.m. ET

Is your organization drifting off course? Do you even know? According to John Gardner, ailing organizations have developed a "functional blindness" to their own defects. Many jurisdictions have hit "organizational icebergs" – often due to the economic downturn. Others have seized opportunities to change their course for the better. "Iceberg Dead Ahead!" is an introduction to the topic of Course Correction Leadership that was first described in an article published in the October, 2012 issue of *Public Management* titled "Steering Clear of Organizational Icebergs." To register, click [HERE](#).

HUD Webinar on CDBG Grant Program

October 23, 2013, 3:30 – 5:00pm, ET

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

announced they will host a series of webinars aimed to discuss challenges with and potential improvements for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. Specifically, HUD is looking for input from current grantees about common obstacles faced and to hear ideas for effective solutions. More information and a link for registration is available [HERE](#).

NARC's 2014 National Conference of Regions

February 9-11, 2014, Washington, DC

The National Conference of Regions is the forum that NARC uses to determine key policy issues and a legislative agenda on topics of relevance and importance to executive directors and local elected officials representing regional organizations and boards. Additional information will be available in late 2013.

NARC's 48th Annual Conference and Exhibition

June 6-11, 2014, Louisville, KY

The Annual Conference and Exhibition is the largest national event focused on promoting effective regional cooperation and solutions through interaction and education. Held annually in June, NARC's Annual Conference is the premier place to learn how to engage in effective regional collaboration. Additional information will be available in early 2014.

We are sending you this email primarily for your information, to meet your needs, further our valued relationship and because you requested to receive electronic newsletters from the National Association of Regional Councils. Please forward as appropriate.

[Unsubscribe](#) lindsey@narc.org from this list.

Our mailing address is:
National Association of Regional Councils
777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 305
Washington, DC 20002

[Add us to your address book](#)

Copyright (C) 2013 National Association of Regional Councils All rights reserved.

[Forward](#) this email to a friend
[Update your profile](#)