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eRegions

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PROGRAM UPDATE REGIONS 360 **GRANT OPPORTUNITIES UPCOMING EVENTS**

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Dear Colleagues,

Last week, NARC completed a successful Executive Directors' Conference and Board Retreat in Des Moines, IA. I want to thank NARC President Gary Moore, NARC Executive Directors Council (EDC) Chair Matt Stoll, the NARC Board of Directors, the NARC EDC, and our generous host, Todd Ashby, for a very productive and engaging meeting. The strength of any membership association is in the passion, dedication, and creativity of its members, and those qualities were evident in all of our members and leadership throughout the conference and retreat.

During NARC's leadership meetings, NARC staff was directed to (among other things):

- Develop a membership survey to distribute next year;
- Partner with the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) on possible development of a joint conference for Executive Directors in the Fall of 2015; and

Taylor Markwith

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- Publish a membership list, for distribution at the 2015 National Conference of Regions, so that existing members of NARC can assist with our membership recruitment efforts.

NARC staff will begin to implement these directives over the next few weeks, while continuing to focus on policy matters important to regional councils. We will also plan our upcoming **2015**

Conferences: (1) The National Conference of Regions, Washington DC, Feb 8-10, and (2) The 49th Annual Conference, Research Triangle/Raleigh, NC, Jun 7-10. NARC Leadership has asked for volunteers for a Program Committee to develop ideas for our conferences – let me know if you would like to participate.

As always, if you have other ideas about how NARC can serve you and your Regional Council, please call or email me.

Thanks,
Joanna

PROGRAM UPDATE

Vice President Biden Announces 4th Round of TAACCCT

Grant Recipients: Today, Vice President Biden, Secretary Thomas E. Perez, and Secretary Arne Duncan announced the winners of \$450 million in job-driven training grants going to nearly 270 community colleges across the country. The funding is part of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) competitive grant program, which is co-administered by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) and the U.S. Department of Education. The grants will provide community colleges and other institutions with funds to partner with employers to expand education and career training programs that will help job seekers get the skills they need for in-demand jobs in information technology, health care, energy, and advanced manufacturing. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

\$50.7M Awarded to Expand and Enhance Innovative

Workforce Development Strategies: Last week, DOL announced \$50,744,449 in *Workforce Innovation Fund* grants to improve federal job training programs. The grants will be used to deliver services more efficiently, facilitate cooperation across

federal and state workforce programs and funding streams, and expand partnerships with specific employers or industry sectors to develop programs that reflect current and future skill needs. The grants were awarded to 11 organizations in 9 states. Click [HERE](#) for the news release.

USDA Unveils Key New Programs to Help Farmers Manage

Risk: Last week, USDA Secretary Vilsack announced the rollout of two highly anticipated new programs, the *Agricultural Risk Coverage* and *Price Loss Coverage* programs. These programs will offer farmers protection when market forces cause substantial drops in crop prices and/or revenues. Producers will have through early spring of 2015 to select which program works best for their businesses. Online tools will allow farmers to enter information about their operation to chart projections for each program under possible future scenarios. Secretary Vilsack stated that “these new programs help ensure that risk can be effectively managed so that families don’t lose farms that have been passed down through generations because of events beyond their control.” Click [HERE](#) for the news release.

GAO Issues Report on DOT TIGER Grants Selection Process:

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued a report stating that the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) has not properly documented how it selects recipients for TIGER grants. The report also states, “GAO recommends that DOT develop clear linkages between project performance measures and program goals to better measure the performance of the TIGER program and its funded projects in meeting the program’s long-term outcomes.” Click [HERE](#) for the report.

REGIONS360

Secretary Foxx announces \$3.6B to Make Transit Systems

More Resilient in NY, NJ, and Beyond: In an effort to help public transportation systems in the areas affected by Hurricane Sandy become more resilient and withstand the impact of future natural disasters, U.S. DOT Secretary Anthony Foxx announced that 40 projects have been selected to receive \$3.6 billion in federal disaster relief. Most of the funds will be invested in projects in New York and New Jersey. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Click [HERE](#) to view the list of grants still open!

NOI for Off-Hours Delivery Program: The Office of Freight Management and Operations at the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) issued a notice of intent (NOI) for the *Off-Hours Delivery Program*. The agency is expecting to request applications in November 2014. FHWA will award one or more cooperative agreement(s) for technical assistance project(s) to explore the efficacy of implementing off-hours goods movement and delivery programs in small to medium size urban areas. The pilot shall look at how truck deliveries made outside of peak and rush can save time and money for freight carriers, improve air quality, and create more sustainable, livable cities. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Click [HERE](#) to view the list of events still open!

Reminder! WEBINAR: The Location Affordability Portal, Version 2: A Better Understanding of How Location Impacts Affordability

October 1, 2:00 PM ET

There is more to housing affordability than how much rent or mortgage you pay. Transportation costs are the second-biggest budget item for most families, but previously there hadn't been an easy way for people to fully factor transportation costs into decisions about where to live and work. The goal of the Location Affordability Portal (www.locationaffordability.info) is to fill this gap by providing the public with robust, standardized data and resources on combined housing and transportation costs to help consumers, policymakers, and developers make more informed decisions about where to live, work, and invest. The webinar, cohosted by NARC, the National Association of Counties (NACO), and the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO), will feature a comprehensive site demo, testimony from practitioners on its applications, and an opportunity for questions and answers. Click [HERE](#) to register.

WEBINAR: Mock DUI - Office of Safety, Noteworthy Practice

Series

October 23, 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM ET

This free webinar describes a community-based program in Seminole County, Florida that targets youth drinking and driving. The program presents the dangers of teen drinking and driving and the long term consequences through a reenactment of prom night. It is a example of how EMS, Engineering, Education, and Enforcement work together to reduce injuries and fatalities. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

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