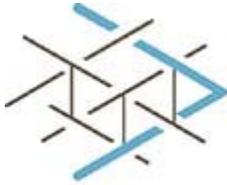


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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XIII, No. 37, October 1, 2013

eRegions

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

Despite the bad news on the continuing resolution today, over 75 executive directors and senior staff meet for the first day of the Executive Directors Conference. MPOs, COGs, and RPCs from all over the country are represented and spent today discussing collaborative leadership, new structures for employees of organizations, and had a high level call with the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee on MAP-21, hosted by the Southern California Association of Governments. We look forward to more great sessions and discussions on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Best,
Fred

PROGRAM UPDATE POLICY UPDATE GRANT OPPORTUNITIES UPCOMING EVENTS

Federal Government Shuts Down: The U.S. Senate adjourns with a Federal government shutdown deadline having passed at midnight eastern time tonight. The Office of Management and Budget prepares for orderly shutdown of government. Nonessential personnel will be furloughed. The U.S. House of Representatives is attempting to call a conference committee between House and Senate designees to discuss the Continuing Resolution (CR) and budget options. The Senate will, most likely, reject this proposal when they return at 9:30 am this morning, October 1st. Armed forces will be paid; though about 800,000 employees will be furloughed and must vacate their offices within four hours after the start of business Tuesday. The estimated cost to to shut the government down is in the millions.

PROGRAM UPDATE

Registration Open for Webinar on Rural America, Economic Opportunity and Policy Priorities: On Wednesday, October 9 at 3:00 pm ET, NARC will host a webinar to discuss the first-ever poll conducted by Lake Research Partners, Ed Goeas of the Tarrance Group and released by the Center for Rural Affairs to assess how Rural Americans view the role of their elected officials in relation to

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the economic opportunities and priorities of their communities.

Register for this webinar by clicking [HERE](#).

POLICYUPDATE

Congress is in session.

Farm Bill Moves Closer to Conference: The House on Saturday approved a measure to combine the nutrition and agriculture components and moved the Farm Bill one step closer to conference with the Senate. However, House conferees must still be appointed before next steps get underway, and major hurdles remain in negotiating the significant differences between each chamber's proposal. The current temporary reauthorization expires tonight, and with budget battles and debt ceiling conflicts looming, differences surrounding the Farm Bill may not be resolved until later this fall.

Older Americans Act Mark-up Set for Wednesday: Barring schedule changes related to funding uncertainties, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee will consider a revised version of the Older Americans Act Reauthorization proposal. Passing a bi-partisan compromise bill out of committee would set the stage for floor consideration in the upper chamber. Lawmakers are still working through last-minute changes and additions to the current version, and NARC will post updated legislative information on the OAA resource page as soon as it is available. More information on OAA is available [HERE](#).

GRANTOPPORTUNITIES

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.

STAR Communities Leadership Program Accepting Application

Deadline: October 15, 2013

The Sustainability Tools for Assessing and Rating (STAR) Communities Program is accepting applications from cities and counties to participate in the 2014 STAR Leadership Program. Leadership Communities will gain access to STAR tools, training and experts to help measure community's progress, strengths and needs. Financial assistance is available to a limited number of jurisdictions. More information is available [HERE](#).

Federal Emergency Management Agency – Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program

Deadline: October 18, 2013

The Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program provides funds to states, territories, Indian tribal governments, communities, and universities for hazard mitigation planning and the implementation of mitigation projects prior to a disaster event. Funding these plans and projects reduces overall risks to the population and structures, while also reducing reliance on funding from actual disaster declarations. PDM grants are to be awarded on a competitive basis and without reference to state allocations, quotas, or other formula-based allocation of funds. More information is available [HERE](#).

Office Depot Foundation

Application Deadline: 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.

Environmental Protection Agency – Urban Waters

Deadline: November 15, 2013

The EPA is soliciting proposals for projects that will advance EPA's water quality and environmental justice goals. Projects proposed for funding must take place entirely within and focus on one of 18 specific Eligible Geographic Areas, as listed in Section I.A and illustrated on the Urban Waters Small Grants program [mapping website](#). More information is available [HERE](#).

Wells Fargo Foundation and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Deadline: December 16, 2013

Designed to support projects that link economic development and community well-being to the stewardship and health of the environment, Wells Fargo and the NFWF have launched a five-year, \$15 million initiative that will be used to leverage other public and private investments with an expected total impact of over

\$37.5 million. Funding priorities for this program include supporting sustainable agricultural practices; promoting land and water conservation; facilitating investments in green infrastructure and energy efficiency; and encouraging broad-based citizen participation in project implementation. More information is available [HERE](#).

National Endowment for the Arts

Deadline: January 13, 2014

The NEA Our Town Program aims to support creative placemaking projects that contribute toward the livability of communities and help transform them into lively, beautiful, and sustainable places with the arts at their core. Our Town will invest in creative and innovative projects in which communities, together with their arts and design organizations and artists, seek to improve their quality of life; encourage greater creative activity; foster stronger community identity and a sense of place; and revitalize economic development. More information is available [HERE](#).

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.

UPCOMING EVENT

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.

NARC Webinar on Rural America, Economic Opportunity and Policy Priorities

October 9, 2013, 3:00 – 4:00 pm ET

NARC will host a webinar to discuss the first-ever poll conducted by Lake Research Partners, Ed Goeas of the Tarrance Group and released by the Center for Rural Affairs to assess how Rural Americans view the role of their elected officials in relation to the economic opportunities and priorities of their communities. Register for this webinar by clicking [HERE](#).

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](#).

Appalachian Regional Commission’s Transforming Appalachia’s Economy

November 6-7, 2013, Charleston, WV

Entrepreneurs are creating a new economic model in Appalachia--one based on local investment and local ownership--and their impact is already being felt in some of the Region’s core sectors, such as manufacturing, health care, and food production. The ***Toward Prosperity*** conference will explore ways Appalachian

communities can develop an entrepreneurial ecosystem that provides support and growth opportunities for both new and established businesses. Click [HERE](#) for more information or to register.

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.

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