

October 9, 2018 [View this email in your browser](#)



DIRECTORS NOTE

Thank you to everyone who attended NARC's Executive Directors Conference in Cleveland, Ohio. We had a great few days learning from and with the attendees. We hope to see many of you again at our National Conference of Regions in Washington, DC on February 10-13.

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

The Senate is in session this week; the House will return on November 13.

Congress Passes and the President Signs a Continuing Resolution

Congressional leaders had hoped to pass all 12 appropriations bills by September 30, the end of the fiscal year. Despite their best efforts, Congress was only able to pass two "minibus" or combined appropriations bills.

The first appropriations bill that Congress adopted and the president signed was the combined Energy and Water, Legislative, and Military Construction-Veterans Affairs "minibus." The second was the combined Defense and Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (Labor/H) "minibus," which was adopted by Congress September 26 and signed into law on September 28.

Passing the Labor/H appropriations bill was no small feat. The Labor/H appropriations bill is often the most controversial appropriations bill and hardest to pass. Congressional leaders agreed to combine it with the Defense appropriations bill to: 1) avoid a congressional deadlock and 2) to protect an agreement on federal spending in fiscal year 2019 to promote parity between defense and non-defense discretionary funding.

Despite the passage of these two major minibus appropriations bills, multiple federal agencies and departments were facing a lapse in funding for the new fiscal year, including: the Departments of Agriculture, Interior, Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, State, Commerce, and Justice; the Environmental Protection Agency; and various financial services agencies. To avoid a partial government shutdown, Congress attached a continuing resolution (CR) for these remaining departments to the Defense and Labor/H appropriations bill. This president-signed CR ensures that these federal agencies will be funded through December 8, by which time Congress will have to pass the necessary appropriations bills or adopt another continuing resolution to keep them funded.

What kind of appropriations bill will emerge after the mid-term election will largely depend on who controls the House and Senate. Should the Democrats gain control of the House, it is more likely that a stalemate between the president and Congress over funding for the southern border wall and enhanced border security – which nearly held up the Defense-Labor/H bill from being signed before the deadline – will emerge and the likelihood of a partial government shutdown increases. If Republicans retain control of both chambers, it is more likely that the president will support the decisions of congressional leaders and accept whatever level of funding for the southern border wall and its security is approved.

Senate to Consider WRDA Legislation Today

This afternoon the Senate is expected to take up *America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 (S. 3021)*, which is the vehicle for the *Water Resources Development Act*. After reaching a compromise on the bill with the Senate last month, the House unanimously approved the comprehensive package. The National League of Cities (NLC), U.S. Conference of Mayors, and National Association of Counties (NACo) **noted** that this bill has several provisions that will help our communities upgrade their water and wastewater systems. It would include: providing financial resources and technical assistance to address lead contamination, increasing resilience to natural hazards, providing workforce development within the water sector, reauthorizing the Drinking Water State Revolving Funds and the *Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act* (WIFIA) program, and requiring the Army Corps of Engineers to engage with local stakeholders on WRDA projects.

Congress Passes Opioids-Related Package, President Expected to Sign

The Senate overwhelmingly approved the *SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act (H.R. 6)*, a bipartisan package that takes a comprehensive approach to addressing the opioid crisis. This follows the House's approval of the same package the week before. Critics to the bill say that **the package does not go far enough to provide federal dollars to address the crisis to localities** that are running innovative prevention, treatment, and recovery programs. But there are several key provisions that are favorable to local governments in the 660-page legislative package, including:

- Reauthorizes key federal health and public safety programs, including the Office of National Drug Control Policy and the High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area and Drug-Free Communities programs;
- Directs the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to issue best practices around providing health care for justice-involved individuals returning to their communities;
- Creates a grant program for comprehensive recovery centers for overcoming addiction;
- **Improves Medicare reimbursement for telehealth programs, and supports an innovative telemedicine-based program that trains rural and remote healthcare providers on how to treat patients with substance abuse and mental health issues;** and
- Directs the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation to incentivize health information technology demonstrations for behavioral health providers.

FCC Approves New Rule to Limit Local Authority In 5G Rollout

By a vote of 3 to 1, the Federal Communications Commission voted to approve an **Order** that will curtail local governments' authority to regulate the rollout of fifth-generation (5G) wireless technologies. *Route Fifty* reports: "the new rule includes strict approval times for localities to consider permits and caps the fees jurisdictions can charge providers." All major state and local organizations, including NARC, **opposed this measure**, and NLC and NACo **reported** that over 100 local governments from 22 states filed comments in opposition to the proposed ruling. To learn more about how this could impact your communities, check out NLC's **Five Takeaways for Cities from the FCC's Small Cell Preemption Order** and Next Century Cities' **Understanding the FCC's Proposed Small Cell Order**.

Farm Bill Expires Before Congress Renews

Congress has missed the September 30 deadline to renew the current Farm Bill. Although Congress did not put a short-term extension in place, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary (USDA) Sonny Perdue says that nothing should change for farmers until the end of the year. He said, "[Farmers will] continue to operate just as they have and I believe and I'm hopeful that we will get a reconciled farm bill between the House and the Senate by the end of the year." Until then, USDA will provide all the same programs under the 2014 Farm Bill until the end of 2018. Secretary Purdue said that most programs will likely stay the same in the next Farm Bill, so for planning purposes farmers should "plan as if the 2014 farm bill was just being extended."

REGIONAL SPOTLIGHT

Eastgate Joins Partners in Washington D.C. to Support BUILD Grant Proposal

Eastgate Council of Governments (Eastgate) Executive Director Jim Kinnick was joined by local

elected officials from Youngstown and stakeholders to meet with federal lawmakers on Capitol Hill last week to champion the city's \$10.8 million BUILD grant proposal. The application, which was sponsored and submitted by Eastgate, describes \$26.2 million in transportation improvements to the downtown area. It would include the self-driving shuttle circulator along Fifth and Rayen Avenues – which would run along a widened Fifth Avenue and be cut down to three lanes to make way for a designated shuttle lane. The application also proposes transit waiting stations, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, green infrastructure, streetscaping, and wayfinding linking major regional anchor institutions impacting economic resurgence across the Mahoning Valley. Project partners have contributed \$10 million in in-kind donations to help get this project off the ground.

Michael Busha to Retire from Treasure Coast RPC

Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council (Treasure Coast RPC) Executive Director Michael Busha has announced that he will be retiring this November. Mr. Busha has served as executive director for 24 years and has 37 years of service with the agency. To recognize his years of service, Mr. Busha was honored with a Lifetime Service Award at the recent Annual Conference of the Florida Chapter of the American Planning Association.

MEMBER REQUESTS

Please Connect Us with Your COG Lobbyist

Do you have a COG lobbyist here on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.? NARC is planning a meeting of COG lobbyists in early November so we can connect with them and help them connect with each other on shared federal legislative priorities. Please send Erich Zimmermann an email at erich@narc.org with your COG lobbyist's contact information so we can send them an invitation to this upcoming meeting.

FEATURED JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Chief Financial Officer

River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization, Daytona Beach, FL

Transportation Travel Demand Modeler

Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, Pittsburgh, PA

Executive Director

El Paso Metropolitan Planning Organization, El Paso, TX

Transportation Planner – Transit Program Manager

River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization, Daytona Beach, FL

Transportation Engineer/Transportation Planner

Metropolitan Area Planning Agency, Omaha, NE

FUNDING

[View full list of grants!](#)

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.

2019 RWJF Culture of Health Prize

Applications Due: November 1

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Culture of Health Prize (the Prize) recognizes communities that have come together around a commitment to health, opportunity, and equity through collaboration and inclusion, especially those with historically marginalized populations and those facing the greatest barriers to good health. The Prize honors those communities that are working to give everyone the opportunity to live well, including residents that are often left behind. A Culture of Health recognizes that where we live—our access to affordable and stable homes, quality schools, reliable transportation—make a difference in our opportunities to thrive, and ultimately all of this profoundly affects our health and well-being. Ten communities will be chosen and will:

- Receive a \$25,000 cash prize;
- Receive customized communications materials about their community including videos, photos, and stories captured by journalists and other communications professionals;
- Receive strategic communications counsel leading up to, during, and in follow-up to the Prize winner announcement;
- Receive national and local promotion of their stories and successes to inspire others' efforts, including outreach to media, policy stakeholders, and organizational networks; and
- Engage in opportunities to build knowledge with other national and community leaders working to build a Culture of Health, including past Prize winners through the Prize Alumni Network.

Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity Program (SHOP)

Applications Due: November 12

Ten million dollars in fiscal year 2018 SHOP Grant funds has been made available to facilitate and encourage innovative homeownership opportunities on a national, geographically-diverse basis through the provision of self-help homeownership housing programs. Applicants must propose to use a significant amount of SHOP Grant funds in at least two states. SHOP Grant funds must be used for land acquisition, infrastructure improvements, and for reasonable and necessary planning, administration, and management costs (not to exceed 20 percent). The construction or rehabilitation costs of each SHOP unit must be funded with other leveraged public and private funds. SHOP units must be decent, safe, and sanitary non-luxury dwellings that comply with state and local codes, ordinances, and zoning requirements, and with all other SHOP requirements, including but not limited to, the requirements for energy-efficiency, water conservation, and accessibility. Homebuyers must be low-income and must contribute a significant amount of sweat equity towards the development of the SHOP units.

Access & Mobility Partnership Grants

Applications Due: November 13

The Access and Mobility Partnership Grants are two separate and distinct funding opportunities that seek to improve access to public transportation through building partnerships among health, transportation, and other service providers. Further, these funding opportunities seek to fund projects that enhance mobility options through increased coordination efforts. The **Innovative Coordinated Access and Mobility Pilot Program** finances innovative capital projects for the transportation disadvantaged that will improve the coordination of transportation services and non-emergency medical transportation services. The **Human Services Coordination Research (HSCR) Program** supports the implementation of innovative strategies in the coordination of human services transportation to provide more effective and efficient public transportation services to seniors, individuals with disabilities, and low-income individuals.

EVENTS

[View full list of events!](#)

Strength in Numbers – Coalition Building

October 10, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

One thing is certain in advocacy and government relations: there is power in the voices of many. It can be as simple as two distinct groups with a common purpose coming together on a shared goal, or as complex as a multi-group conglomerate of nonprofits, associations, and corporate entities. Whatever the coalition goal you've set your sights on, there are some basic tenets you need to get in place to enhance your chances of success. Join CQ Roll Call for a webinar exploring the how to and nitty gritty of coalition building, as well as real world examples of successful coalitions in the public advocacy space.

Community Centered Revitalization: Community Capital, Opportunity Funds, and Local Control

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

Cutting Edge Capital attorneys Kim Arnone and Brian Beckon will discuss how communities can come together to drive local revitalization in a way that benefits the community itself rather than outside investors. The webinar will cover real estate funds and the newly-authorized Opportunity Funds. There will be time for Q&A at the end of the presentation.

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.

FEMA Announces Webinars about Updating the National Response Framework

October 15, 4:00-5:00 PM ET

As part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) effort to build a national culture of preparedness and based on lessons learned from the unprecedented 2017 hurricane and wildfire season, the National Response Framework (NRF) is being updated to incorporate lessons learned from last year's hurricane and wildfire season. FEMA is hosting a series of one-hour engagement webinars to describe the update and answer participants' questions.

Creating a Talent Development Culture in State and Local Government

October 17, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

Talent managers in the public sector face unique and urgent workforce challenges. Between demographic shifts, hiring freezes, the attrition of eligible retirees, and bureaucratic structures that fail to attract younger or more specialized workers, government agencies struggle to recruit and retain top talent. In the competition for talent, a talent development culture has emerged as a key differentiator. Join *Governing* for a one-hour webinar as they focus on states' efforts to create more-skilled, engaged, high-performing, and resilient workforces.

Federal Broadband Funding: Policies and Programs to Connect America

October 17, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

Join BroadbandUSA for an overview of federal funding options to support increasing broadband access in communities across the United States. Learn about recent program and policy updates from officials representing the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA).

The Opioid Epidemic: What We Know and How We Connect Community Practices

October 18, 3:00-4:00 PM ET

Join Connecting Communities to learn about the opioid epidemic and its impact on the economy, specifically labor force participation. Examples of local models and practices used to address aspects of the opioid epidemic will be shared.

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**.

Community Resilience Workshop: Data Needs for Resilience Planning and Decision-Making

October 25-26, Rockville, MD

NARC has been working with the National Institute of Standards and Technology to organize a workshop on resilience planning and decision making. The workshop is organized around three main topics:

- How communities characterize themselves, set goals, and make decisions;
- The gap between current and desired performance of a community's built environment;
- and community resilience priorities and solutions.

The workshop will include speakers and participants who represent cities, counties, regional bodies, and states, as well as Federal agencies, universities, non-profits, and the private sector.

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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