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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

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eRegions

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

I am very excited to announce new staff at NARC. **Anna Rosenbaum** is our new Communications Associate who will assist in communication and events. Anna started as an intern at NARC, focusing on transportation and community projects. Anna comes from a public relations and event planning background specific to membership-driven organizations; she has an English degree from Rollins College. **Taylor Markwith** is our new Program Associate who will assist in our energy program. Taylor just graduated with an International Studies

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2014 NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF REGIONS

FEBRUARY 9-11, 2014

WASHINGTON, DC

SAVE THE DATE!

PROGRAM UPDATE

2013 Solar Decathlon: NARC exhibited at the 2013 Solar Decathlon in Irvine, CA as part of the SunShot Solar Outreach Partnership. At the event, NARC provided educational information to local governments looking to bolster their solar development by lowering some of the soft costs associated with solar energy. For more information on NARC's solar work, visit www.NARC.org/SolarOPs.

Webinar Resources Available: Rural America, Economic Opportunity and Policy Priorities: NARC hosted a webinar with Celinda Lake of Lake Research Partners and Brian Neinaber of The Tarrance Group to discuss the recently released study for the Center for Rural Affairs surveying rural voters in the Great Plains, Midwest and Southeast regarding the role of federal policy in creating economic

degree from American University; her emphasis was on global environmental policy. **Erich Zimmerman** is our new Director of Transportation Programs. Erich comes to us from Taxpayers for Common Sense, where he led their transportation policy program. Erich's specialty is transportation finance and funding. He has a M.S. Degree from the University of Montana in Environmental Studies with an emphasis on transportation policy.

This week, Shannon is in Terre Haute, IN addressing the Indiana MPO Conference and we'll be providing updates, as necessary, on the government shutdown.

Best,
Fred

NARCLEADERSHIP

President

Hon. Penny Gross
Supervisor,
Fairfax County, VA

Chair Jim Hassinger,

Executive Directors
Council
Executive Director,
Southwestern
Pennsylvania

opportunity for rural citizens and a future for their communities. Overwhelmingly rural Americans are committed to preserving their way of life and believe that small town values and priorities are worth fighting for. However, great division exists among the role that local and federal government leaders should take in helping to ensure this way of life is preserved for future generations. The research team discussed these results, and revealed openings for elected officials and local governments to promote policy priorities that provide genuine opportunity for rural Americans and their way of life.

- Click [HERE](#) to access a PDF of the webinar.
- Click [HERE](#) to access a recording of the webinar.
- Click [HERE](#) to access the results of the survey that was conducted.

POLICYUPDATE

Congress is in session.

Appropriations Update: Congress continues to work through options to address both the government shutdown/FY14 funding and the debt ceiling. The two issues are now intermingled and will be dealt with together. The government has been shutdown for over two weeks and the debt ceiling must be raised by this Thursday, October 17 or face default. The Senate is said to have bipartisan agreement on a deal that will put forward a continuing resolution (CR), funding the government through January 15, 2014 at FY13 levels. The Senate CR would keep sequestration and include a debt ceiling increase through February 7, 2014. The Senate has not released or voted on the legislation. Today the House Republican leaders are moving forward with a bill, expected to be marked up in the House Rules Committee late Tuesday afternoon, that would lift the debt ceiling, reopen the government and enact a host of other policies. The bill is expected to make it to the floor Tuesday evening. The Senate is said to be on hold with their legislation to see how the House will proceed.

Farm Bill Heads to Conference; Numerous Obstacles Remain: The House agreed last week to send long-delayed Farm Bill Reauthorization to conference with the Senate. After naming conferees, lawmakers in both chambers will continue the process to hammer out significant policy and funding differences between the two measures. While the move

Commission

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toward conference is a major step forward in the effort to provide long-term reauthorization for important agriculture and nutrition programs, House and Senate negotiators will have to bridge a more than \$35 billion gap between the two proposals. Additionally, reauthorization efforts may face the attempt to wrap a long-term proposal into current fiscal compromise.

NARC Signs National Coalition Letter Urging Senators to Consider

WIA Reauthorization: This week, NARC joined over 40 other national organizations on a letter from the National Skills Coalition and other partners urging the Senate to consider the Workforce Investment Act of 2013. The bipartisan bill, which passed the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee in July, would reauthorize the country's workforce development programs and allow for critical improvements to the workforce system, which was last reauthorized in 1998. NARC urges members to sign on to this letter by October 25. A copy of the letter is available here (*include link to attached document*) and organizations can sign on to it [HERE](#). NARC's workforce development resource page is available [HERE](#).

n4a Releases Study of Shutdown's Impact on Nation's Seniors:

Last week, the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) released results of a study outlining the effects of the ongoing government shutdown on local AAA's and their ability to operate federally funded programs under the Older Americans Act (OAA). Survey results found that three-fourths of AAA respondents use federal funding to maintain services within the first months of the fiscal year, and that a prolonged discontinuation of federal funding due to the government shutdown puts seniors at considerable risk of losing OAA services. AAA's, which are already experiencing significant fiscal constraints under sequestration, are increasingly unable to accommodate continued funding cuts. More information on these results is available [HERE](#). NARC continues to work with n4a and other industry partners to push for OAA reauthorization and to prevent further gutting aging programs.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

**Appalachian Regional Commission: Livable Communities
Assistance**

Deadline: October 18, 2013

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), is offering assistance to Appalachian communities through the Livable Communities program, which helps small towns and rural communities improve their livability by promoting economic development while safeguarding the local landscape. The 2013 program will focus on developing local food systems as a means of promoting economic diversification. Up to five selected communities will receive a total of up to \$250,000 in technical assistance and implementation support. The deadline for application has been extended to October 18, 2013. 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.

UPCOMINGEVENTS

Turning Trash Into Cash: Landfill Gas-To-Energy Project Webinar

October 17, 2:00 PM ET

Municipal Solid Waste Landfills are the third-largest human-generated source of methane emissions in the US. Local governments can benefit from this by transforming methane into usable energy sources through landfill gas-to-energy projects. Learn more [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](#).

SelectUSA Investment Summit 2013

October 31 – November 1, 2013

The U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration and SelectUSA are hosting the first-ever SelectUSA investment summit at the end of this month aimed at connecting businesses and investors from around the world with U.S. economic development organizations at the state, regional, and local levels. Preregistration is required [HERE](#) and registration closes October 18. Additional information is available at the event’s website [HERE](#). A flyer about the event 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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