

October 15, 2018 [View this email in your browser](#)



NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

The House and Senate are on recess and will return on November 13.

No matter the results of the upcoming mid-term elections, Congress will return on November 13 for about 15 legislative days to complete work on a wide range of bills that congressional leaders say they want to pass.

According to *The Hill*, congressional leaders will try to pass all of the remaining fiscal year 2019 appropriations bills (or pass a continuing resolution to avoid a partial government shutdown), the Farm Bill, legislation to extend expiring tax breaks, criminal justice reform, the *Violence Against Women Act* reauthorization bill, and an update to the ***Jumpstart Our Business Startups (JOBS) Act***, a bill that deals with capital formation.

In addition, Republican chairmen are pushing for adoption of the *AV Start Act*, which would set national standards for the testing and deployment of self-driving cars, and the *Streamline Act* that would promote the rapid deployment of 5G networks. The latter, which is opposed by NARC in its current form, would substantially reduce local government's role in determining where cells and cell towers may be placed.

Senate leaders will also try to get 36 federal District Court and three circuit court judges, and numerous executive branch appointees approved.

The wild card, of course, is funding for the southern border wall. The president may demand funding for the wall before he will sign any piece of legislation. Even if he doesn't, his Republican allies in the House may try to stall any legislation until the southern border wall is completely funded.

Democrats have generally opposed building a wall, but have indicated a willingness to discuss stronger border controls, perhaps opening the way to a compromise. Some on the Republican side have gone so far as to say that a compromise on the border wall could lead to a bill that would make "necessary security improvements" and allow Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or "Dreamers," to remain in the United States.

Of course, much will depend on the outcome of the midterm elections on November 6. If Democrats prevail and take over either the House or Senate or both, they may not feel the need to compromise with Republicans and may hold up all legislation except those that must be passed before the end of the year. This includes funding for some federal departments whose funding expires on December 8.

NARC and NATOA Submit Joint FCC Telehealth Comments

NARC joined the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA) in submitting comments to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on a proposed

Connected Care Pilot Program. The program would support the delivery of telehealth services to low-income Americans. Together, NARC and NATOA applauded the FCC's efforts to create this program to try and improve healthcare options to those that lack access. In crafting this new program, our organizations recommended that the FCC open this program to a range of potential healthcare providers, communications service providers, and patients. We also encouraged the FCC to design this program with a focus on using broadband to improve healthcare, and not advancing other unrelated policy objectives.

DHS “Public Charge” Proposal Comment Period Opens

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has issued a **notice of proposed rulemaking** that could reshape how the federal government defines “public charge” – a term used to determine whether an individual seeking immigration status is likely to become dependent on federal benefit programs to live. The proposed rule would widen the scope of programs and factors that the federal government would consider to determine if an individual is a “public charge.” This would apply to immigrants seeking entry to the country, as well as those already in the country seeking permanent residency or a visa extension. The proposed rule could have an impact on localities, including increased use of the local safety-net, increased administrative burden on localities that administer federal programs, and increased risk of public disease outbreaks from individuals and families that are discouraged from seeking federal health benefits. Public comments are due no later than December 10.

Senators, Providers Criticize ‘Unpredictable’ FCC Funding for Rural Broadband

During a Senate Commerce Committee meeting titled “Broadband: Opportunities and Challenges in Rural America,” telecom providers pressed Congress for a predictable funding mechanism to support rural broadband projects. Senate Commerce Chairman Senator John Thune agreed that not enough is being done to help connect rural areas, saying “the FCC has not conducted an analysis of what insufficient and unpredictable funding is doing to the companies trying to deploy broadband under some of the most difficult circumstances in America. This is simply unacceptable.” Some of the criticisms include:

- The Universal Service Fund, which allows eligible carriers to recover some of their costs with rural broadband deployments, is underfunded.
- Questions remain about which providers are eligible under a new Rural Utilities Service \$600 million rural broadband buildout pilot. Congress originally sought to award providers in regions lacking high-speed internet access across 90 percent of their geography, but the House advocated for a lower standard.
- The FCC's Mobility Fund Phase II challenges localities to contest maps that inflate broadband access in many areas – although they are currently using these numbers to appropriate funds through 2030.

OTHER NEWS

Major Climate Report Describes a Strong Risk of Crisis as Early as 2040

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a group of scientists convened by the United Nations, released a **report** that paints a dire picture for planet Earth. It concludes that the world could see worsening food shortages and wildfires and a mass die-off of coral reefs as soon as 2040. If greenhouse emissions continue at their current rate, the atmosphere could warm up 2.7 degrees by 2040 – flooding coastlines and intensifying droughts and poverty. To prevent this warming, the report recommends that greenhouse pollution be reduced by 45 percent from 2010 levels by 2030, and 100 percent by 2050. The scientists say that it is technically possible to avoid the 2.7 degrees of warming but note that it may be politically unlikely.

Mayors Urge Greater Support, Clearer Path for Cities to Combat the Opioid Crisis

NARC attended a National League of Cities Hill briefing last week to support the notion that federal partnership with localities is critical to addressing the nation's growing opioid crisis. The mayors of Gary, Indiana, Huntington, West Virginia, and Knoxville, Tennessee discussed how they have been developing and implementing programs to address substance abuse disorders in their communities. They also praised recent congressional action to pass the *SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act (H.R. 6)*, a comprehensive legislative package passed to improve the way our country tackles the crisis. However, they said that the bill doesn't go far enough and called on their federal partners to:

- Provide more direct funding to localities,
- Provide more up-to-date data on the crisis,
- Support our first-responders who may experience trauma from being on the crisis front lines, and
- Provide technical assistance/toolkits to help local leaders understand what they are dealing with and how they can work to address the crisis.

REGIONAL SPOTLIGHT

Greater Boston Coalition Aims For 185,000 New Housing Units By 2030

In a regional landmark commitment to housing production, the Metro Mayors Coalition (comprised of fifteen cities and towns in the greater Boston area) set a collective housing production target of 185,000 units by 2030. This goal will help the Metro Mayors Coalition keep up with the region's strong job and population growth, which has increased by nearly 110,000 residents and 148,000 jobs since 2010. The Metro Mayors Coalition has also agreed to a set of regional **guiding principles** and **strategies**, including maintaining housing stability, affordability, and diversity. To learn more about this initiative, listen to a **WBUR interview with MAPC Executive Director Marc Draisen** and check out MAPC's Metro Mayors Coalition Regional Housing Task Force **website**.

Regions Participate in National Walk to School Day

On October 10, several regional councils – including Metroplan Orlando, Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), San Luis Obispo Council of Governments, Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), and Space Coast Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) – celebrated National Walk to School Day with in-person events and on social media. The annual event promotes walking in communities for several reasons, including: teaching safe pedestrian skills to children; creating awareness of how walkable a community is and where improvements can be made; and reducing traffic, pollution, and speed near schools. To see photos of National Walk to School Day events across the country, search Twitter using the hashtag **#WalkToSchoolDay**.

MEMBER REQUESTS

Requested Membership Sample Documents from EDC Conference

NARC has had requests to collect samples of documents that were discussed during the 2018 Executive Directors Conference. Please send samples of your organization's board meeting summaries/updates and board code of conduct/board policy documents to **maci.morin@narc.org**.

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!

Program Coordinator III

West Florida Regional Planning Council, Destin, FL

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

FUNDING

View full list of grants!

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.

FY 2019 Farm to School Grant

Applications Due: December 4

The Farm to School program was established to provide grants and technical assistance to implement farm to school programs that improve access to local foods in eligible schools. Approximately \$7.5 million will be released under this solicitation in FY 2019. Planning and training grant awards range from \$20,000 to \$50,000, and implementation grant awards range from \$50,000 to \$100,000. Organizations that have received implementation, support service, or training grants through the Farm to School Grant Program in the last two funding cycles (FY 2017 or FY 2018) are ineligible to apply for FY 2019 funding. A 25 percent cash or in-kind funding match is required.

AmeriCorps State and National Grants FY 2019

Letter of Intent Due: December 12; Applications Due: January 30, 2019

Through AmeriCorps, the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) has helped to engage millions of citizens in meeting community and national challenges through service and volunteer action. In the FY 2019 AmeriCorps competition, CNCS seeks to prioritize the investment of national service resources in economic opportunity, education, healthy futures, veterans and military families, rural intermediaries, safer communities, and faith-based organizations. Organizations that propose to operate in only one state must apply through the Governor-appointed State or Territory Commissions. Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit a Notification of Intent to apply for this competition, but it is not required.

EVENTS

View full list of events!

NARC Webinar! Connecting the Region: Planning to Fulfill Your Regional Broadband Vision

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

Communities across America are increasingly recognizing the importance of regional collaboration in assessing their internet connectivity needs and planning for effective broadband deployment. Tune in to this NARC webinar, in partnership with BroadbandUSA, to learn more about the steps your regional council can take towards creating a strategy and action plan that fulfills your region's broadband vision. You will hear from two regional council leaders on how their organizations developed their own regional broadband plans, some of the successes and challenges they encountered along the way, and where they are now in the implementation process.

NARC Webinar! NARC-LISC Opportunity Zones Webinar

November 15, 3:00-4:00 PM ET

NARC and the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) will hold a webinar on the Opportunity Zones program on November 15. The presentation will provide an overview of the program, how it aims to attract private investment to underserved areas, and what to expect over the next phases of Opportunity Zone implementation. Wasatch Front Regional Council will also be featured, sharing their role in designating Opportunity Zones in Utah and potential opportunities this program presents for their organization and their region.

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).

Digital Transformation for Local Governments

October 18, 1:00-2:30 PM ET

Today, 89 percent of adults in the United States are using the internet. Gone are the days when customers were happy to be able to download a permit application online. Now they want to fill out the application and track the progress from start to finish on their phone. Join ICMA's Jessica Johnston as she welcomes Onbase by Hyland in an engaging discussion about how digitally transforming the constituent experience has the power to increase efficiency, improve transparency, reduce security threats, lower cost, and ensure the resilience and continuity of operations. This webinar will present best practices for meeting the needs of your constituents as they grow increasingly connected.

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.

Planning Ahead: County Planning, Land Use & Zoning Strategies for Affordable Housing

October 31, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

Across the nation, county governments and residents are struggling with housing costs. County governments are most explicitly linked to housing through property assessments and the collection of property taxes, yet they face a diverse set of challenges stemming from housing affordability issues. Counties are in a unique position to respond to affordable housing challenges because of the role many play in planning and zoning. With a variety of tools at their disposal, county governments are well-positioned to help residents find adequate and affordable housing. Join the National Association of Counties for this educational webinar to learn more about these

best practice strategies, including county case examples from Buncombe County, NC and Grand County, UT.

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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