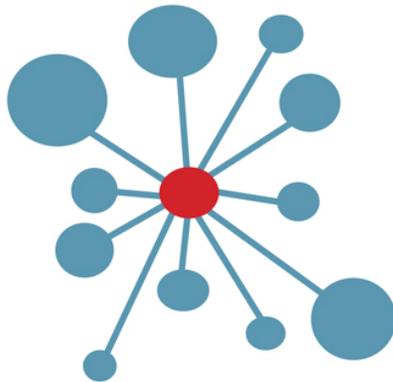




NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

eREGIONS



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Join NARC, the Alamo Area Council of Governments, and your peers in San Antonio, Texas from October 22-24 for a not-to-be missed opportunity to learn from your colleagues and other experts on ideas and best practices from around the nation.

## NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

*The Senate is in session, and the House is on a one-week recess.*

### Overview

Last week, the news from Washington seemed to be dominated by two topics: healthcare and disaster relief.

On Thursday, the president signed an **executive order** that would “facilitate the purchase of insurance across state lines” and directs the U.S. Department of Health of Human Services (HHS), U.S. Department of the Treasury, and U.S. Department of Labor to propose regulations that **“increase competition, increase choice, and increase access to lower-priced, high-quality healthcare options.”** According to the *Washington Post*, the administration has ended payments to health insurers under the *Affordable Care Act* (ACA). Although the White House did not confirm when payments would be cut off, officials at HHS said the cutoff for federal payments would be immediate.

This controversial decision has already shored up criticism. Several health groups, insurers, and hospital associations have submitted a **letter to Congress** stating that serious consequences will follow the administration’s decision: higher premiums, fewer insurance choices, and less access for all Americans to essential healthcare. Eighteen states and the District of Columbia **filed a lawsuit** on Friday to reverse the administration’s decision. Although ending the payments won’t kill ACA, *The Hill reports* that there will likely be fewer people signing up during the next open enrollment period. This means those that do are more likely to be sicker, leading to possibly higher premiums and insurance companies leaving the ACA marketplace.

Looking to California, *Newsweek reported* that firefighters have largely contained the wildfires

moving through the state. The destruction has claimed the lives of more than 40 people and left thousands homeless. **Accuweather has predicted** that the wildfires will cost the U.S. economy \$85 billion. Combined with **Accuweather's estimated \$290 billion in economic costs** from Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, and **Brookings estimate of \$95 billion in damages** from Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico, the U.S. is looking at a large bill for recovery.

To help with the disaster recovery efforts, the House voted for an amendment (**H RES 569**) to the *Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Requirements Act 2017* (**HR 2266**). **The Hill reports** that this package includes \$18.7 billion for FEMA, \$16 billion to address the National Flood Insurance Program that is quickly approaching its borrowing limit, \$576.5 million for wildfire recovery efforts, and \$1.27 billion for disaster food assistance to Puerto Rico. It will also give Puerto Rico access to \$4.9 billion in low-interest Treasury loans. Many of the 69 Republicans that voted against the legislation cited concerns of increasing fiscal effects from the recent disaster spending packages, believing that the relief should be offset with spending cuts elsewhere.

What to watch in Congress this week:

- **Budget Resolution:** The Senate is expected to consider its FY 2018 budget resolution (**S Con Res 25**) this week. The debate promises to reveal deep partisan fault lines. If the Senate passes the resolution, it will enable Republicans to bypass the crucial 60-vote threshold for debate on tax reform.
- **Disaster Aid:** The Senate is likely to consider **H Res 569** to offer aid to those communities affected by the recent hurricanes and the California wildfires.
- **Appropriations Markups:** On Tuesday, the Senate Interior-Environment Subcommittee and the Senate Homeland Security Subcommittee will be marking up their appropriations bills. The full Senate Appropriations Committee plans to markup both bills on Thursday.

## OTHER NEWS

### **n4a Launches the #OurBestShot Campaign**

The National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) has partnered with the Alliance for Aging Research to launch its 2017 #OurBestShot campaign. The goal of the campaign is to educate older adults about the importance of getting vaccinated. n4a has developed **several new resources** for Area Agencies on Aging to use, including publications, a **community workshop kit**, a **social media toolkit**, and a **video** in English and Spanish. Follow #OurBestShot on Twitter to have access to additional messages and graphics that you can share with your followers throughout the campaign.

### **Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute Report on Aging in Place and Transportation**

The Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute recently released a report they prepared for USDOT titled ***Aging in Place in Small Urban and Rural Communities***. The **study was conducted to determine** “the current state of aging in place in small urban and rural settings throughout the country and quantify the costs for residents to live at home and ride public transportation versus moving to an assisted living facility.” The results of the study showed that the cost of assisted living is almost always higher than alternative options. Older adults could save thousands of dollars per year by living at home and using home health services and public transportation. The report asks policymakers to consider the saved costs associated with aging in place initiatives and to increase the accessibility and availability of public transportation for seniors.

### **Microbuses May Become the Leading Edge of the AV Movement**

MayMobility, a startup company in Ann Arbor, Michigan, is trialing a three-quarter mile fixed-route autonomous vehicle (AV) shuttle service for a local commercial real estate firm. The six-passenger microbus will be starting with baby steps, traveling from a parking garage to an office building. The French mobility company Navya is also planning to produce AV microbuses near Ann Arbor, promising to deploy one at the University of Michigan later this fall. Because these vehicles only go up to 25 miles per hour, it may pave a faster way to widespread adoption than personal AV vehicles. As *Route Fifty* concludes, “While other players are trying to solve the

entirety of the future AV problem in a single grand sweep, the AV microbus space seems to be aiming for a smaller, but interestingly, a more practical and manageable target.”

## REGION SPOTLIGHT

### Federal Assistance Available for Impacted Residents in California

Because of the **major disaster declaration** made on October 10, residents living in Butte, Lake, Mendocino, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Sonoma, and Yuba counties can now apply for individual assistance through FEMA. The federal funding available includes grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and programs to help individuals and businesses recover from the wildfires. Federal assistance is also available to local governments on a cost-share basis for debris removal and emergency protective measures. Those interested in applying for funds should register online at [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov) or call 1-800-621-(FEMA) (3362).

### TMACOG Focused on Agriculture and the State of Lake Erie

The Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (**TMACOG**) has a lot of exciting projects going on, especially in the areas of agriculture and water. TMACOG is currently managing a grant project through spring 2019 that is providing free water control field structures to farmers in Wood and Ottawa counties. Through this grant initiative, one farmer in the region, Brendyn George, has seen the great value of water control structures for the 2,500 acres he farms in Wood County. He is now using 33 water control structures and ordered 16 more because the system is saving him money on fertilizer while reducing phosphorus pollution in Lake Erie.

To further address phosphorus in Lake Erie, TAMCOG has an event coming up on November 15 called TAMCOG Tech/SEMCOG University: Agricultural Actions for Clean Water in the Western Lake Erie Basin. This half day event will bring educators, water and agricultural researchers, and government officials together to look at the current condition of Lake Erie and how state and federal agencies are addressing challenges. TMACOG is using this event as an opportunity to help farmers and local leaders in the region reach their 40 percent reduction target. To participate in this free event, contact Joy Minarcin at [minarcin@tmacog.org](mailto:minarcin@tmacog.org).

### MORPC Energy & Air Quality Director Named One of Midwest Energy News 40 Under 40

Congratulations to Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission Energy & Air Quality Director Christina O’Keeffe for being named one of *Midwest Energy News* 40 under 40 award recipients! Each year, the news outlet highlights emerging leaders throughout the Midwest and their work in America’s transition to clean energy. Christina currently leads more than 25 professionals to deliver \$6 million in public and private funds. Their efforts connect communities to vital financial and program resources on air quality, transportation, housing, and energy. Keep up the great work!

## FEATURED JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

### Senior Business Development Analyst

San Diego Association of Governments, San Diego, CA

### Senior Policy Analyst – Transportation

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Chicago, IL

### Director of Planning & Economic Development

City of Springfield, IL

### RFP for Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

Association of Central Oklahoma Governments, Oklahoma City, OK

### Senior Accountant

San Diego Association of Governments, San Diego, CA

## REQUESTS

## **CDBG Coalition Requests Your CDBG Stories**

Does your regional council have any success stories about the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in your region? The CDBG Coalition, of which NARC is a member, is looking for CDBG project information and stories to include in their *CDBG National Report*. Please submit your stories to Sarah at [sarah@narc.org](mailto:sarah@narc.org) by November 30 and include the following information: project name, location, project year, project description, use of CDBG funds, target population, amount of CDBG funds, leveraging, jobs created (if any, both temporary and permanent), project impact, a high-resolution photo, quote from a beneficiary, and project contact information.

## **Regional Council Anniversaries**

Has your regional council celebrated a milestone anniversary recently or somewhat recently? If so, NARC would love to hear about it. Please share the details of events you hosted, social media campaigns, and general marketing collateral with Anna at [anna@narc.org](mailto:anna@narc.org).

## **FUNDING**

*[View full list of grants!](#)*

### **USDA Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program**

Applications Due: December 4

In FY 2018, NIFA's Competitive Foods Program intends to solicit applications and fund two types of grants: 1) Community Food Projects (CFP) and 2) Planning Projects (PP). The primary goals of the program are the following:

- To meet the food needs of low-income individuals through food distribution;
- Community outreach to assist in participation in federally assisted nutrition programs;
- Improving access to food as part of a comprehensive service;
- Increase the self-reliance of communities in providing for the food needs of the communities;
- Promote comprehensive responses to local food access, farm, and nutrition issues; and
- Meet specific state, local, or neighborhood food and agricultural needs, such as:
  - Equipment necessary for the efficient operation of a project;
  - Planning for long-term solutions; and
  - The creation of innovative marketing activities that mutually benefit agricultural producers and low-income consumers.

### **USDA Farm to School Grant**

Applications Due: December 8

In FY 2018, USDA anticipates awarding approximately \$5 million in grant funding to support efforts that improve access to local foods in schools. Applicants may apply for a Planning grant, Implementation grant, or a Training grant. Planning grant awards will range from \$20,000-\$50,000. Implementation grant awards will range from \$50,000-\$100,000. Funding for training grants is expected to range from \$20,000-\$50,000. For all three types of grants, the federal share of a project cannot exceed 75 percent of the total cost of the project, as required by the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. Therefore, the applicant must provide at least 25 percent of the costs of the total project. The total project cost is the federal grant request amount plus the applicant match.

## **EVENTS**

*[View full list of events!](#)*

### **EPA Tools and Resources Webinar: EnviroAtlas**

October 17, 3:00-4:00 PM ET

EnviroAtlas is a web-based decision support tool that combines maps, analysis tools, downloadable data and informational resources that states, tribes, communities, and individuals can use to help inform policy and planning decisions that impact the places where people live, learn, work, and play. EnviroAtlas contains two primary tools: An Interactive Map, which provides access to 300+ ecosystem-related maps developed by EPA researchers; and an Eco-Health Relationship Browser, which displays evidence from hundreds of scientific publications on the linkages between ecosystems, the services they provide, and human health. EnviroAtlas has been used in a range of research and planning projects, including community Health Impact

Assessments, green infrastructure projects, restoration planning, brownfield redevelopment, and others.

### **Enhancing the Resilience of Seniors in Your Community**

October 18, 12:00-1:15 PM ET

This webinar will focus on the safety and well-being of seniors within the context of climate change. Using a participatory adaptation planning process conducted with members of the senior community in Bridgeport, Connecticut as a case study, the presentation will describe seniors' unique characteristics that put them at risk to climate change. The presentation will share specific recommendations to enhance senior resilience. The presentation will discuss the participatory process itself to illustrate an approach for engaging seniors and other vulnerable groups directly in adaptation planning, and these issues will be considered through a municipal lens with an eye toward safeguarding seniors and other vulnerable groups within the context of city-wide emergency preparedness efforts.

### **BroadbandUSA Practical Broadband Conversations Webinar: Understanding the Role of Broadband in Regional Economic Development**

October 18, 2:00-3:00 PM EDT

Broadband is a key driver of regional job creation and economic prosperity. Recognizing this, many communities are taking a cooperative approach to develop a comprehensive regional economic strategy emphasizing broadband deployment and use. Join BroadbandUSA's Practical Broadband Conversations webinar to learn how regional economic development agencies are leveraging broadband to spur collaboration, innovation, and growth.

### **Lead in the Water: Policy Options to Replacing Lead Service Lines**

October 20, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

The tragedy in Flint, Michigan caused states to rethink their approach to lead in water and lead service lines. Although water utilities provide corrosion control to keep lead pipes from leaching, utilities do not control the pipelines from the water service to the building or house. These lead service lines account for an estimated 50 percent to 75 percent of the lead in drinking water. This USCL webinar will explore policies for states to address lead-service lines and options for replacement, providing policy makers insight into the tools and approaches states have undertaken to address lead in drinking water.

### **NACo Supreme Court Preview**

October 24, 1:00-2:00 PM ET

It is rare for the Supreme Court to have such an interesting docket before its new term begins. But it is not rare that the interesting cases—including partisan gerrymander, the travel ban, free speech and free exercise of religion—affect states and local governments. Join Todd Kim, District of Columbia Solicitor General, who will argue one of two cases involving the District this term, Ashley Johnson and Gibson Dunn, who co-wrote a merits brief on behalf of Governor Chris Christie in a sports gambling case; and Kevin Daley, Supreme Court reporter for the Daily Caller News Foundation, in a discussion of the most important cases for states and local governments to be decided in the Court's 2017 term.

### **NARC & APA Webinar! Trees and Stormwater: A Tool for Your Community**

November 9, 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM EST

Using trees in landscape design provides a multitude of environmental benefits, particularly when they are used in new and retrofitted stormwater management installations. This webinar will introduce a new free interactive web-based tool developed by the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Council of Governments and the U.S. Forest Service that will help you maximize the value of trees in stormwater management. Join the American Planning Association, National Association of Regional Councils, and national experts in green infrastructure design for an introduction to this exciting new tool that enables strategic placement of trees to improve stormwater management.

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