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## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

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# eRegions

### **NARC LEADERSHIP**

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#### **Joanna Turner**

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#### **Jenny Doolin**

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#### **Marcy Fritter**

Office Manager

#### **Cameron Herbolshaim**

Intern

#### **Skylar Hurwitz**

Program Assistant

### **PROGRAM UPDATE POLICY UPDATE**

#### **REGIONS 360**

### **GRANT OPPORTUNITIES UPCOMING EVENTS**

**2014 EDC Materials:** Click [HERE](#) for materials presented during the Executive Directors' Conference (EDC) in Des Moines, IA.

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## **EXECUTIVE BRIEF**

Dear Colleagues,

All of Washington is focused on Ebola – how to respond; what officials need to know; and how we can prevent the spread, both here and abroad. To respond to the crisis, the White House announced that Ron Klain, former Chief of Staff for Vice President Biden, will be the new Ebola Czar, and Senate Appropriations Chair Mikulski announced she would hold a hearing on the issue on November 6. We expect more hearings on Ebola to be scheduled soon.

In addition to addressing the Ebola crisis, House and Senate leaders will have a short time when they return to Washington in November to decide whether to pass an omnibus spending package for 2015, or aim instead for a continuing resolution that lasts until early 2015 or through the end of the fiscal year. Several sticking points will make the debates on what to do more

**Taylor Markwith**

Program Coordinator

**Anna Rosenbaum**

Public Affairs Manager

**Erich W. Zimmermann**

Director of Transportation

Programs

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complicated, including how much funding to provide to combat Ebola and how to address ISIS, but leaders from both chambers and both sides of the aisle are signaling that an omnibus is possible. Stay tuned for more information.

Thanks,  
Joanna

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## PROGRAMUPDATE

**HHS releases \$3 billion for Heating / Cooling Aid:** The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Administration for Children and Families (ACF) released over \$3 billion in *Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program* (LIHEAP) funds to help Americans struggling to pay for heat and air conditioning. The funding is being made available from ACF's Office of Community Services to states, territories, tribes, and the District of Columbia pursuant to the *Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2015* (Public Law 113-164). Click [HERE](#) to learn more about LIHEAP, and [HERE](#) for the release.

**Executive Action on Climate Resilience and Green Infrastructure:** The Obama Administration recently announced its *Climate and Natural Resources Priority Agenda*. This series of executive actions promotes private and public partnerships to address climate resiliency through increased investments in particular projects that include green infrastructure and urban forestry initiatives. Under this agenda, the Trust for Public Land is developing forest carbon mapping tools to help local governments assess and plan for urban forestry. Additionally, The Nature Conservancy and the Center for Whole Communities are launching a program to build a network of 13 cities across the nation to help address the impacts of climate change, through the use of natural infrastructure. Click [HERE](#) for more information on the specific actions laid out in the President's Plan.

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## POLICYUPDATE

*Both the Senate and House are in district work period.*

**Senator Boxer Wants Lame Duck Action on Transportation:** Though Congress recently extended the last transportation

authorization bill through the end of May 2015, likely pushing action off for the new Congress that will be seated next year, Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) recently sent a letter to the U.S. House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dave Camp (R-MI) urging action well in advance of this new deadline. She would prefer action during the post-election session of Congress that will occur in December. Click [HERE](#) for the letter.

#### **Americans (Barely) Support Federal Gas Tax Increase For**

**Better Roads:** A recent survey commissioned by AAA found that Americans generally believe the federal government should be spending more on transportation infrastructure. More than two-thirds (68%) believe the federal government should be spending more on roads, bridges, and mass transit systems. Only slightly more than half (52%) of survey participants, however, would be willing to pay more in gas tax to make these improvements a reality. The federal gas tax hasn't been raised since 1993. The AAA survey found that 51% would be "significantly" or "somewhat" more likely to vote for a member of Congress who supports an increase, while only 19% said they would be less likely to vote for a Congressional representative if they supported an increase in the federal gas tax. Click [HERE](#) for the article.

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## **REGIONS360**

**Santa Monica's Eviction Map:** The Pico Neighborhood Association, in partnership with the [Anti-Eviction Mapping Project](#) and with the support of the Rent Control Board of Santa Monica, have put together a time-lapse map illustrating the impact of the *Ellis Act* on Santa Monica. The *Ellis Act* was passed by the State in 1985 to provide a legal way for landlords to transfer properties from the rental market. Recently, the Act has been criticized for providing opportunities for land speculators to evict tenants to convert the properties to condos, which was not necessarily the intent of the law. Santa Monica officials created the mapping project to better understand the impact of the Act on the city's goals to reduce automobile use for low income families, and increase public transportation ridership. Click [HERE](#) for the map.

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## **GRANT OPPORTUNITIES**

Click [HERE](#) to view the list of grants still open!

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## UPCOMINGEVENTS

Click [HERE](#) to view the list of events still open!

### **TRAINING: ICMA Mid-Career Managers Institute**

*Apply by December 31 for Discount*

The International City/County Management Association (ICMA) is offering a Mid-Career Managers Institute, a focused development program for those midway in their career of local government management. This Institute is designed for individuals who are new to local government management, but not new to local government; hold a leadership position in the military, public/private-sector, or academic organization; or those looking for their next challenge. The Mid-Career Managers Institute will provide: broader understanding of your responsibilities as leaders; perspective on some of the critical leadership and management issues facing mid-career managers; understanding and awareness of concepts and techniques relevant to local government management; and mentorship from an ICMA credentialed-manager mentor. Apply by December 31<sup>st</sup> and save \$100 on registration. Full details are located [HERE](#).

### **WEBINAR: Moving Toward Sustainability: Webinar Series Kickoff**

*October 30, 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM ET*

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency created a new guide to help utilities develop strategies to improve sustainable practices across utility operations. Learn how the guide, [\*\*Moving Toward Sustainability: Sustainable and Effective Practices for Creating Your Water Utility Roadmap\*\*](#), can help you save money by optimizing planning/delivery of services; create water efficient practices and resilience to short- and long-term disasters; and build support among community stakeholders. Click [HERE](#) to register.

### **NARC CONFERENCE: NARC's 2015 National Conference of Regions**

*February 8-10, 2015 - Washington, DC*

The National Conference of Regions is NARC's forum to determine key policy issues and a legislative agenda for the year ahead, targeting topics central to our members' missions and their local elected officials' focus. Additional information will be available in late 2014.

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