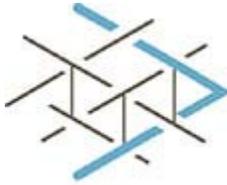


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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

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eRegions

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

We have added one more staff person to the NARC mix this week - Marcy Fritter. Marcy is our new part time Office Manager and event support staff member. Some of you may remember Marcy when she worked here a few years ago as Chief Conference Planner and Member Services staff; we welcome her back. Along with Marcy, we have Erich Zimmermann, our new Director of Transportation Programs, and Taylor Markwith, our new Program Associate.

The costs of the past two week Federal government shutdown are in - just about \$25 billion was

POLICY UPDATE

MEMBER360 MEMBER REQUESTS

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES UPCOMING EVENTS



2014 NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF REGIONS

FEBRUARY 9-11, 2014

WASHINGTON, DC

SAVE THE DATE!

POLICY UPDATE

Both chambers are in recess. The Senate reconvenes Oct. 28. The House reconvenes Oct.22.

Transit Provider Representation on MPO Boards: NARC is working with member metropolitan planning organizations (MPO) transportation management areas (TMAs) and sister associations on a response to the Transit Provider Representation on MPO Boards proposed rule release by the Federal Transit Administration. NARC is collecting points of concern and examples as well as letters MPOs may be sending to the FTA Docket on the rulemaking on this issue. Please share information with us; letters and examples may be sent to Erich Zimmermann, erich@narc.org.

President Urges Passage of Farm Bill Reauthorization: Last week in a speech outlining his major priorities for the remainder of the year,

taken out of the economy due to furloughs, lost tax revenue and other inactivity. The National Park System lost approximately \$450k/day, while already experiencing significant cutbacks. The U.S. Senate promised to avoid a shutdown when government funding expires in a few months. Hopefully, a common sense budget agreement will also be realized, one that repeals the sequester and restores funding to core discretionary and infrastructure programs.

Best,
Fred

NARCLEADERSHIP

President

Hon. Penny Gross
Supervisor,
Fairfax County, VA

Chair Jim Hassinger,

Executive Directors
Council
Executive Director,
Southwestern
Pennsylvania
Commission

NARCSTAFF

Fred Abousleman

Executive Director

Shannon Baxevanis

Deputy Director

President Obama urged lawmakers to quickly move a long-term Farm Bill through conference and to his desk. The President encouraged Congress to move a bill “that American farmers and ranchers can depend on; one that protects vulnerable children and adults in times of need; one that gives rural communities opportunities to grow and the long-term certainty that they deserve.” Conferees are expected to begin negotiations next week, and there is a chance that a five-year Farm Bill could be passed as part of an end-of-the-year budget deal. NARC will continue to track developments on the ongoing discussions.

Sign Coalition Letter Urging Senate to Move Forward on Workforce

Investment Act Reauthorization: Last 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](#) and organizations can sign on to it [HERE](#). NARC’s workforce development resource page is available [HERE](#).

Older Americans Act Reauthorization to be Marked-Up in Senate Committee Next Week:

On October 30, The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee will consider the bipartisan draft of a bill to reauthorize the Older Americans Act (OAA). The OAA, which is overdue for reauthorization, funds critical services for senior citizens and is crucial to ensuring the country’s elderly have access to meals, community centers, transportation and more. Last week the New York Times ran a story about the importance of these programs to local communities and the challenges facing many Area Agencies on Aging. That story is available [HERE](#). More information about the OAA and resources for local governments is available [HERE](#).

REGIONS360

Citizen’s Efficiency Commission Publishes Recommendations for

Implementation: Having been established just over a year ago, the Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission can already highlight the achievements of its Citizens’ Efficiency Commission

Autumn Campbell

Director of Community Programs

Mia Colson

Program Analyst

Marcy Fritter

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Program Associate

Lindsey Riley

Deputy of Communications

Anna Rosenbaum

Communications Associate

Erich Zimmermann

Director of Transportation Programs

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(CEC) for Sangamon County, IL. The CEC was established with the purpose of improving the economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of local government by assessing and proposing opportunities for improved cooperation, coordination, and sharing of services between and among local governments in the County, as well as the reduction or elimination of duplication of effort. As they review their first year of work, the citizen appointees to the CEC would agree that the research and study required to understand what local governments do, how they do it, and how they marshal their resources to address their responsibilities, is more complex and labor intensive than they had imagined. In this undertaking, the most difficult challenge they faced was determining exactly where local governments in Sangamon County were situated programmatically, organizationally, and fiscally. The CEC has produced a number of stand-alone white papers and recommendations for local government leaders and their constituents to consider for implementation. Their work and their website can be viewed **HERE** and may be helpful for your regional council.

MEMBERREQUESTS

Technical Assistance Regarding Rural Ambulance Service and Regional Dispatch: Some rural communities in their region are being forced to either absorb significant rate hikes from existing ambulance service vendors at contract renewal or forfeit the service altogether. The East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) requests your help from any region who has experienced a similar situation. Currently, there are two (2) ambulance service providers within their region.

- Have other regions across the country experienced the same or similar situation where there is a sole vendor (or two vendors) requiring a substantial contract renewal rate increase to maintain ambulance services?
- Have any regions established an Emergency Services special district as a means to increase competition and/or ambulance service within their region?
- As a means to reduce costs and improve services in their region, a cooperatively funded emergency services regional dispatch center is being considered. Are there any successful examples of cooperatively funded EMS/Fire Regional Dispatch Centers within your region? If yes, please provide details and information.

Nonprofit entities and regional councils: The Triangle J Council of Governments (TJCOG) is looking into creating a nonprofit to leverage additional funds and increase their ability to address needs in the region. Specifically, TJCOG is interested in:

- Different examples of how regional councils have used nonprofits to leverage funds;
- What types of programs have regional councils with nonprofits been able to implement;
- How have regional councils with nonprofits been able to raise revenue; and
- Any innovative approaches/solutions that have been used or have resulted from the creation of a nonprofit, etc.

Mission Statement and Vision: The Kern Council of Governments (Kern COG) is looking for examples of mission statements, visions and goals from councils of governments from their peers nationwide, in order to assist in the updating of their own mission statement and vision. Kern COG asks that you share your organization's mission statement, vision and goals.

These organizations ask for your thoughtful reply. Please forward any feedback to Anna Rosenbaum, anna@narc.org, including which member assistance request to which you are responding.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Climate Solutions University Accepting Applications

Application Deadline: Rolling

The Model Forest Policy Program is offering a special funding opportunity for qualifying U.S. urban and rural communities working together addressing ecosystem services. Urban decision makers need to plan for climate impacts that result from land changes beyond their jurisdictional boundaries. To find out more about the Climate Solutions University, click [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](#).

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Deadline: January 30, 2014

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced the availability of \$181 million to develop commercial-scale biorefineries or retrofit existing facilities with appropriate technology to develop advanced biofuels. Funding is available through the Biorefinery Assistance Program provides loan guarantees to viable commercial-scale facilities to develop new and emerging technologies for advanced biofuels. The announcement is available [HERE](#), more information about the program is available [HERE](#) and the full text of the Federal Register notice 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

UPDATED: EPA to Hold Public Listening Sessions on Reducing Carbon Pollution from Existing Power Plants

NOTICE: Sessions in Boston, Philadelphia Rescheduled Due to Government Shutdown

Following through on President Obama's Climate Action Plan, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will hold 11 public listening sessions across the country to solicit ideas and input from the public and stakeholders about the best Clean Air Act approaches to reducing carbon pollution from existing power plants. Power plants are the nation's largest stationary source of carbon pollution, responsible for about one third of all greenhouse gas pollution in the United States. Click [HERE](#) for more information about EPA's carbon pollution standards for the power sector. Click [HERE](#) for the complete list of sessions, locations, and to complete online registration.

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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