

October 22, 2018 [View this email in your browser](#)



NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

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

'Opportunity Zones' Rules Help Bring Program into Sharper Focus

The U.S. Treasury has finally released its **proposed rules** on how the new Opportunity Zones economic development program will work. The rules provide some clarity on 1) the establishment and operation of the special funds that can make investments through the program, and 2) the tax breaks for capital gains that individual taxpayers and companies funnel into those funds. Some of the specific rules include:

- 50 percent of the gross income of the business must come from activity in one of the designated zones.
- 70 percent of the business' tangible property must be used in the zone.
- A business operating in a zone would have a 31-month window to use the capital they've received from an Opportunity Fund.
- If the Opportunity Fund investment is held for five years, then 10 percent of the deferred original gain is tax free. That tax-free threshold rises to 15 percent if the investment is held for at least seven years.

The U.S. Treasury expects to release a second round of rules before the end of the year. The draft rules that were just released could be finalized by spring, following a 60-day comment period. To learn more about this new program and what it could mean for regions, **register for our upcoming NARC-LISC Opportunity Zones webinar.**

Congress, More Than a Dozen States Consider Legislation to Expand Broadband Access

There has been a flurry of activity this year on the federal and state levels to try and expand broadband access to the 24 million that need it. The federal government included a new \$600 million e-Connectivity pilot program in the fiscal year (FY) 2018 omnibus and may add more than \$400 million in additional funds for the program in FY 2019. The House and Senate versions of the 2018 Farm Bill would authorize new U.S. Department of Agriculture grants for rural broadband deployment projects. Other congressional legislation focuses on finding ways to bolster federal research on broadband connectivity and streamline federal broadband policymaking efforts. Nineteen states have enacted 26 bills related to increasing broadband availability, focusing on funding, regulatory reform, and exploratory research.

OTHER NEWS

Brookings Releases Work Requirements and Safety Net Programs Report

The Hamilton Project at Brookings Institution recently released a **report** analyzing those who would be impacted by an expansion of work requirements in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and an introduction of work requirements into Medicaid. The report characterizes the individuals who would face work requirements, describes their labor force

experience over two consecutive years, and identifies the reasons why they are not working if they experience a period of unemployment. The report found that most of the SNAP and Medicaid participants who would be exposed to work requirements are attached to the labor force, but most would fail to consistently meet a twenty-hour-per-week threshold. Health issues was the most common reason these individuals gave for not working.

5th Annual Walkability Action Institute RFA Going Live Soon

The National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD) will be hosting their 5th Annual Walkability Action Institute on April 22-25, 2019 in Decatur, GA. Next Monday, October 29, NACDD will open their request for applications (RFA) to offer eight interdisciplinary regional teams a chance to compete for travel assistance to attend the action institute. The teams must have a minimum of public health, planning, transportation, and elected official representation. Start forming your teams now – the RFA links and materials will be available soon!

REGIONAL SPOTLIGHT

SEMCOG Releases Bike and Pedestrian Plan Implementation Report

An ongoing priority for the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) has been to follow up on adoption of their different plans with implementation, updating their members and stakeholders of their progress along the way. SEMCOG released a **printed implementation report** of their Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for Southeast Michigan, and complemented it with a **video that highlights their progress**. Other materials SEMCOG has created to highlight this program's implementation progress include a presentation to their executive committee, a magazine article, **blog entry**, **interactive bicycle network map**, and social media. Reception to the implementation report has been very positive so far, and SEMCOG is confident that this reporting and engagement will help keep up the plan's momentum.

GRADD to Host Senior Games in the Park Event

This week, the Green River Area Development District (GRADD) will be hosting their annual Senior Games in the Park event. Physical activity for older adults has many benefits, including: reduced risk of falling; healthier bones, joints, and muscles; reduced symptoms of anxiety and depression; and the ability to live independently later in life. This event helps motivate seniors to enjoy healthy moderate-level activity while socializing with their peers. Individuals fifty years and older are expected have a great day of fun, games, and a little friendly competition.

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.

Help Us Launch Our Newest Publication: *Regional Councils: This Month in Photos!*

Beginning in November, *Regional Councils: This Month in Photos* will be published monthly to highlight the important work that is taking place in regions. Please share your photos of a regional council meeting, a board retreat, a meeting with your state or federal elected officials, the opening of a new facility, a special program, an award you may have received, or something else you view as important that you would like to share with your colleagues. Please include a brief description and the names and titles of anyone who appears in the photo. You can send your photos and related information to Neil Bomberg at neil@narc.org.

NARC Survey about Connected and Automated Vehicles

Connected and Automated Vehicles (CAVs) are increasingly making headlines and will have profound impacts on transportation planning and the entire transportation system. NARC is

conducting a **survey** to understand the needs, challenges, and engagement practices in considering regional priorities and varying stages of research and development in CAV technology. Please share your thoughts regarding CAVs from a regional perspective and let us know how we can best tailor our activities to your needs. **The survey should take approximately 6 minutes to complete and will close for responses on Thursday, November 8, 2018.** The survey can be found [here](#).

FEATURED JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Comprehensive Resiliency Planner

Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, Pinellas Park, FL

Associate Transportation Planner

Rogue Valley Council of Governments, Central Point, OR

Principal Planner

Rogue Valley Council of Governments, Central Point, OR

Transportation/Community Development Planner

Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments, Kelso, WA

MPO Boards Coordinator

Broward MPO, Fort Lauderdale, 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.

Save America's Treasures Grants

Applications Due: December 3

The National Park Service has announced the availability of \$13 million in Historic Preservation Fund grants for the Save America's Treasures (SAT) program. SAT grants provide preservation and/or conservation assistance to nationally-significant historic properties and collections. Grants will be awarded through a competitive process and require a dollar-for-dollar, non-Federal match, which can be cash or documented in-kind.

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.

Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program

Applications Due: January 31, 2019

The Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program (FMA) provides funding to states, territories,

federally-recognized tribes, and local communities for projects and planning that reduces or eliminates long-term risk of flood damage to structures insured under the National Flood Insurance Program. FMA funding is also available for management costs. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requires state, tribal, and local governments to develop and adopt hazard mitigation plans as a condition for receiving certain types of non-emergency disaster assistance, including funding for Hazard Mitigation Assistance projects. Generally, local communities will sponsor applications on behalf of homeowners and then submit the applications to their state.

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.

[Understanding the Public Charge: Implications for Adult Education and Workforce Advocates](#)

October 24, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

New regulations proposed by the Trump administration regarding the immigration "public charge" test will have ripple effects for adult education, postsecondary education, and workforce programs. Learn what the proposal includes, how it would affect immigrant adult learners and workers, and what it means for community colleges, nonprofit organizations, and other skills advocates. Find out how you can submit public comments in opposition to this proposed rule, and review sample comments from NSC about the skills implications of this complex and important proposal. Bring your questions!

[U.S. EPA: GHGRP Reporting Year 2017 Data Release](#)

October 24, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will demonstrate its greenhouse gas data publication tool known as "FLIGHT" (Facility Level Information on GreenHouse gases Tool), including new features and a tutorial on common searches. FLIGHT allows users to view reported data by region, industry, or greenhouse gas, and to download maps, lists, and charts of that information.

[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.

2018 State and Local Election Results

November 8, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

On Election Day, much of the national media will be focused on the Congressional midterms. But count on *Governing* for all the news and analysis you need to know about this year's races at the state and local level. With 36 governor races and nearly two dozen state legislatures up for grabs – along with a slate of important ballot initiatives – this election promises to be a pivotal one. Join *Governing*'s editorial team for all the state and local news and trends from this year's races.

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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