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## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

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# eRegions

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### **PROGRAM UPDATE POLICY UPDATE**

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### **GRANT OPPORTUNITIES UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### **NARC Election Webinar, November 13, 2:00PM – 3:00PM ET**

Join NARC for a webinar on the results of the 2014 elections and what it will mean for regional and local governments. The upcoming election will determine the makeup of the 114th Congress, which will be seated in January. This will have enormous implications for the issues and policies that are important for local governments and regional agencies. This webinar is an opportunity to look at what election results mean for Congressional leadership and Committee membership. We'll also look ahead to the lame duck session and what to expect in the early days of the new Congress. Click [HERE](#) to register.

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## **EXECUTIVE BRIEF**

Dear Colleagues,

On Saturday, Leslie and I represented the NARC community at Walter A. Scheiber's memorial service, graciously hosted by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC). As many of you know, Mr. Scheiber, who passed away on October 8, was MWCOC's first Executive Director and NARC's first President. He led the charge on helping form NARC and

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Program Coordinator

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Director of Transportation  
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establishing a permanent presence for MWCOG through its building, the Center for Public Administration Services, which also houses the International City and County Management Association (ICMA) and NARC. The many moving tributes to Mr. Scheiber highlighted his leadership, sense of humor, dedication to family, and work to support local leaders in their efforts to develop stronger, safer, and more resilient communities. Mr. Scheiber was influential to so many elected officials, local administrators, and other public servants that an overflow room was required to accommodate everyone who came to pay their respects. It was a fitting tribute to a man who was so dedicated to public service and regional governmental cooperation – the major work of Mr. Scheiber's life according to his family. Click **HERE** for Mr. Scheiber's obituary in the *Washington Post*.

In the coming weeks, NARC staff will cull our historical records to find pictures and articles about and by Mr. Scheiber to post on our website. MWCOG also plans to post a video from the beautiful memorial service. If you have any pictures or stories about Mr. Scheiber that you would like to share, please email them to me as well, **joanna@narc.org**.

Thanks,  
Joanna

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## **PROGRAMUPDATE**

**USDA Releases New State-by-State *Made in Rural America* Report:** Last week, as part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) commitment to strengthening rural economies, Secretary Tom Vilsack announced a new state-by-state **Made in Rural America** report illustrating the impact of USDA investments in rural communities. Each state has a fact sheet that highlights specific USDA investments in rural businesses, manufacturing, energy, water and other infrastructure development. The report also outlines how USDA is helping rural communities attract businesses and families by investing in housing and broadband. Individual State fact sheets are available **HERE**.

**Metropolitan Share of Zero-Vehicle Commuters Driving to Work:** "While more Americans are relying on alternative modes to get to work every day, cars still define most commutes. Over time,

these high driving rates not only reflect a built environment that continues to promote vehicle usage—despite recent shifts toward city living and job clustering—but also call into question how well our transportation networks offer access to economic opportunity for all workers, " according to Brookings Institution researchers Adie Tomer and Joseph Kane. Click [HERE](#) to read their article.

**Labor Trafficking in America:** A new report from the Urban Institute and Northeastern University, *Hidden in Plain Sight: Labor Trafficking in America*, documents labor trafficking abuses occurring in the major U.S. industries of agriculture, domestic work, hotels, restaurants, and construction. This study chronicles the experiences of labor trafficking victims from the point of recruitment for work, forced labor victimization, attempts to escape and get help, and efforts to seek justice through civil or criminal cases. Interview and case file data detail the ubiquity of trafficking, which occurs both in plain sight and behind lock and key. Detailed recommendations propose next steps for policy and practice. Click [HERE](#) for the report.

**Ranking Metropolitan Areas by Transit Accessibility:** The University of Minnesota has released a report, *Access Across America*, ranking major metropolitan areas by the accessibility to jobs by transit. Based on 46 of the largest metropolitan areas in the U.S., researchers collected detailed transit route and schedule information for each city followed by calculating the number of jobs a resident can reach by transit and walking between the hours of 7 AM and 9 AM. Cities like Washington, Philadelphia, Seattle, and Denver performed significantly better in the Access Across America transit report than the University's 2013 *Automobile Accessibility* report. This report supports the University's ongoing efforts to develop tools for assessing transportation performance. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

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## POLICYUPDATE

*Both the Senate and House are in recess.*

### **NARC Calls on Congress to Increase Local Transportation**

**Funding:** Last week, NARC joined the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organization, National Association of Counties, National League of Cities, and U.S. Conference of Mayors on a letter

calling for Congressional transportation leaders to direct a greater share of available federal transportation funds to local governments and their regional agencies. Cities, counties, and townships own 78 percent of the nation's road miles, 43 percent of the nation's federal-aid highway miles, 50 percent of the nation's bridge inventory, and operate a majority of the nation's ports, airports and transit systems. An increase in local funding is necessary to allow for adequate upkeep and enhancement of the nation's transportation system. Click [HERE](#) for the letter.

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## REGIONS360

**Cincy Red Bikes Produce Great Results:** *Cincy Red Bikes* is a new bike program in the City of Cincinnati that is gaining a lot of popularity in a short period of time. With a system rollout just four weeks ago, there have been more than 7,000 trips, which is 3,000 more trips than projected. There are 30 Red Bikes Stations with 260 bikes. For \$8 per day, riders can rent a bike to ride around town all day, so long as they check in at bike station every hour. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

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## MEMBERREQUESTS

Please send all responses to Anna Rosenbaum, [anna@narc.org](mailto:anna@narc.org).

**PVPC - Communications Plan:** The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) in Springfield, Massachusetts is updating their communications plan, and is seeking advice and information from other regional councils regarding their communications plans. They are looking for a blueprint for developing a plan in-house with input from staff and commissioners. Specifically, do you have a communications plan that you can share? PVPC would appreciate any information or suggestions you can offer.

**Classification and Compensation Plan:** Has your organization recently completed a Classification and Compensation Plan for your staff? If your organization has done such a plan, can you provide the following information:

- Who conducted the research?
- How much did it cost?

- Can you share the scope of services provided?

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## GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

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

### **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE RFP: Opportunity for City Leaders Interested in Juvenile Justice Reform**

*Applications Due: Tuesday, November 18, 5:00 PM EST*

*Informational Webinar: October 29, 1:00 PM ET*

The National League of Cities' Institute for Youth, Education, and Families (YEF Institute) recently announced a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the *Municipal Leadership for Juvenile Justice Reform Technical Assistance Initiative*. The YEF Institute has used the Mayor's Institute model to successfully engage mayors across the country as champions and leaders on a host of issues affecting children and families. Following the Mayor's Institute, teams from participating cities will begin to draft action plans at an initial group meeting. YEF Institute staff will provide support in the implementation of action plans through site visits and regular opportunities for peer-to-peer learning and collaboration. Click [HERE](#) for details, and [HERE](#) to register for the informational webinar.

### **Promise Zones Competition**

*Application Due: November 21, 5:00 PM ET*

In 2013, President Obama announced that he would designate 20 Promise Zones nationwide: urban, rural, and tribal communities where the Administration would partner with local leaders to create jobs, increase economic activity, improve educational opportunities, and reduce violent crime. For communities selected, the federal government will partner to help the Promise Zones access the resources and expertise they need. Click [HERE](#) to apply for the second round of Promise Zones designations.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

### **WEBINAR: Research Helps Small Drinking Water Systems Deliver High Quality Drinking Water**

*October 29, 12:00 – 1:00 PM ET*

Join the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for a webinar providing an overview of EPA's small systems research and outreach to communities. State and local officials across the Nation are faced with the challenges of effectively communicating information and overseeing training for small system owners and operators with a wide range of expertise, skills, and preferences for modes of communication. This webinar is designed to help local and state officials understand regulations enforced by EPA under the *Safe Drinking Water Act* on treatment alternatives, regulations, health implications, and emerging contaminants. Click [HERE](#) to register.

**WEBINAR: Demystifying HUD's Homeless Programs**

*November 19, 3:00 – 4:00 PM ET*

Join the HUD Center for Faith-Based & Neighborhood Partnerships for a conversation with HUD's Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs. You will learn more about the programs HUD administers to assist the homeless population, the types of services offered, how your organization can become engaged locally, and where to get technical assistance. Conference line #: 800-260-0718, Access Code: 340328. Click [HERE](#) to register.

**NARC WEBINAR: NARC Election Webinar**

*November 13, 2:00 – 3:00PM ET*

Join NARC for a webinar on the results of the 2014 elections and what it will mean for regional and local governments. The upcoming election will determine the makeup of the 114th Congress, which will be seated in January. This will have enormous implications for the issues and policies that are important for local governments and regional agencies. This webinar is an opportunity to look at what election results mean for Congressional leadership and Committee membership. We'll also look ahead to the lame duck session and what to expect in the early days of the new Congress. 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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