

Email not displaying correctly? Click [HERE](#) to view it as a PDF.



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XIII, No. 41, October 28, 2013

eRegions

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

With less than twelve legislative days left this year, we are pushing Congress on a number of issues. First and foremost, the repeal or "fix" of the sequester in the upcoming budget negotiations; second, fully funding our core regional and local programs; third, getting our key authorizations passed this year including the Older Americans Act and Workforce Investment Act; fourth, prepping for "MAP-22;" and, hunkering down for the next budget fight in three months.

With all of this, I would direct you to thank your staff for the great work they are doing on each of

[PROGRAM UPDATE](#) [POLICY UPDATE](#)

[MEMBER360](#) [MEMBER REQUESTS](#)

[GRANT OPPORTUNITIES](#) [UPCOMING EVENTS](#)



2014 NATIONAL
CONFERENCE OF REGIONS

FEBRUARY 9-11, 2014

WASHINGTON, DC

SAVE THE DATE!

PROGRAM UPDATE

Survey Request: NAWDP Seeks Insight on Effects of Government

Shutdown: Please help the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals (NAWDP) and other leading workforce organizations to assess the impact of the government shutdown on the public workforce system. Your participation in this short survey will provide data that will be used to inform policymakers, legislators and stakeholders as to the costs of the shutdown on the system and its constituents. The link to the survey is available [HERE](#).

POLICY UPDATE

The Senate reconvened today, Oct. 28. The House reconvened on

these issues. Lastly, if you have been asked for a request for analysis or policy determination, we would greatly appreciate your prompt reply.

Registration for the 2014 National Conference of Regions will be launching soon. Please plan to join us in D.C. so that we can carry the regional message to members of Congress and the Administration.

Best,
Fred

NARC LEADERSHIP

President

Hon. Penny Gross

Supervisor,
Fairfax County, VA

Chair Jim Hassinger,

Executive Directors

Council

Executive Director,

Southwestern

Pennsylvania

Commission

NARC STAFF

Fred Abousleman

Executive Director

Shannon Baxevanis

Deputy Director

Autumn Campbell

Director of Community

Programs

Mia Colson

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. The proposed rulemaking can be found [HERE](#). **All responses are due no later than Wednesday, October 30th. Any responses that can be sent to NARC before this time would be helpful as well.**

House passes WRRDA bill by near-unanimous vote: On Wednesday, the House passed the Water Resources Reform & Development Act by a vote of 417-3. The House and Senate will now go to conference on the bill. The Senate was nearly as enthusiastic when its own version passed back in May, so a final bill looks likely to make it to the president for his signature. If it does, this would be the third transportation-related reauthorization measure in recent years, providing some of the very few examples of bi-partisan, bi-cameral cooperation during that time. The CBO analysis of the bill can be found [HERE](#); the House report is [HERE](#).

Farm Bill Conference Meetings Begin This Week: House and Senate conferees will begin meeting on October 30 to hash out differences between the House and Senate versions of five-year Farm Bill reauthorization. NARC has been working with National Association of Counties (NACo), National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) and other industry partners to push conferees to support Rural Development title priorities found in the Senate version of the Farm Bill (S. 954), which includes a \$228 million increase in mandatory funding over 10 years compared to the \$96 million increase provided in the House version (HR 2642). Additionally, the Senate version reauthorizes the Delta and Northern Great Plains Regional Authorities and retains the definitions of "rural" and "rural area" for purposes of program eligibility within the Rural Development department at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. More information on the Farm Bill is available [HERE](#).

Older American Act Mark-up This Week: The Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee will mark-up the bi-partisan

Program Analyst

[Marcy Fritter](#)

Office Manager

[Bridget Gribbin](#)

Intern

[Taylor Markwith](#)

Program Associate

[Lindsey Riley](#)

Deputy of

Communications

[Anna Rosenbaum](#)

Communications

Associate

[Erich W. Zimmermann](#)

Director of Transportation

Programs

To access past issues
of *eRegions*, [visit our
website.](#)

Make NARC your
homepage —
[click here to learn how.](#)

compromise of the bill to reauthorize the Older Americans Act (S 156). The bill has received support from aging industry, though some controversy over state funding formulas remains. NARC will be at the mark-up to track updates as the legislation receives committee consideration. More information on the OAA reauthorization process is [HERE.](#)

REGIONS360

NARC Members Receive Funding Under the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership Program: Last week, the Departments of Commerce and Agriculture in conjunction with the Environmental Protection Agency and Small Business Administration announced the first round of grantees selected under the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP) program. The IMCP is an Obama-administration initiative to accelerate the resurgence of manufacturing in the United States and create jobs in cities across the country. The \$7 million in grants and other investments announced are the first round of funding to reward communities for creating globally competitive environments that attract, retain, and expand investment in manufacturing and spur international trade and exports. NARC members including the Bi-State Regional Commission in Rock Island, IL and Centralina Council of Governments in Charlotte, NC were chosen as first-round grantees. More information about the program is available [HERE.](#)

MEMBERREQUESTS

Our members are still looking for more responses. Please look at the requests below to see if you can be of help. Thank you.

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.

IBM – Smarter Cities Challenge

Deadline: November 8, 2013

IBM is seeking applications for its Smarter Cities Challenge. The Smarter Cities Challenge places top talent from IBM in cities around the world to help address critical challenges such as sustainability, energy, transportation, economic development, education, public safety, health, and social services. More information about the program is available [HERE](#).

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](#).

Department of the Treasury – Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI)

Deadline: December 23, 2013

Funding is available for the CDFI Program, which aims to use federal resources to invest in CDFIs and to build their capacity to serve low-income people and communities that lack access to affordable financial products and services. Through the CDFI program, the CDFI Fund provides two types of monetary awards to CDFIs - Financial Assistance awards and Technical Assistance awards. More information on this opportunity is available [HERE](#), and more information on the CDFI program is available [HERE](#). Funding for the Native American CDFI program is also available. More information can be found [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

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.

WEBINAR: Renewable Energy Case Studies - Tribal and Developer Perspectives

October 30, 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is hosting a webinar on how two Tribal communities have successfully implemented renewable energy projects using innovative programs and practices, and how those can be applied to your project. Click [HERE](#) to register for the event.

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](#).

WEBINAR: Intra-organization Energy Efficiency Competitions

November 5, 3:00 -4:00 PM ET

This webinar hosted by the U.S. Department of Energy will show how public and private organizations can boost their energy efficiency through friendly competitions by highlighting two organizations that have had success with this: Better Buildings Challenge partner City of El Paso

and Better Buildings, Better Plans Partner Legrand. Click [HERE](#) to register for the webinar.

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.

We are sending you this email primarily for your information, to meet your needs, further our valued relationship and because you requested to receive electronic newsletters from the National Association of Regional Councils. Please forward as appropriate.

[Unsubscribe](#) lindsey@narc.org from this list.

Our mailing address is:
National Association of Regional Councils
777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 305
Washington, DC 20002

[Add us to your address book](#)

Copyright (C) 2013 National Association of Regional Councils All rights reserved.

[Forward](#) this email to a friend
[Update your profile](#)