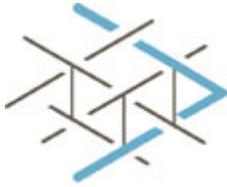


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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XII, No. 40, October 29, 2012

eRegions

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

Our thoughts are with our colleagues, friends, and families along the East Coast during this hurricane event. NARC offices are closed until Wednesday and we will do our best to respond to e-mail and phone calls.

According to the NOAA, the Silicon Valley Mercury News and Face the Facts USA, "The annual number of billion-dollar disasters in the United States - earthquakes, floods, fires, hurricanes and more - has tripled since the 1980s, from two to about six per year." In 2011 there were 14 \$1 billion-plus weather events. "Weird weather" and severe weather has increasingly played havoc with our economy. Hurricane Sandy is expected to cost billions in damage and lost revenue and loss of life is incalculable. This begs the question about what more we can do to mitigate and prepare. We've recently completed work with NOAA on climate adaptation and have work on evacuation and transportation.

We will also be launching a

[PROGRAM UPDATE](#) [POLICY UPDATE](#)
[GRANT OPPORTUNITIES](#) [UPCOMING EVENTS](#)

PROGRAM UPDATE

There are no program updates this week.

POLICY UPDATE

The House and Senate are in recess until after the November elections; they are expected to return on November 14.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

NOAA Climate Program Office FY13 Grant Application Information

Application Due: November 6, 2012

Individual programs within CPO will now be accepting letters of intent and project applications. The full announcement of opportunity is available on the [CPO Funding Opportunities](#) page and on the [Grants.Gov website](#).

Regional Climate Working Group as part of our NOAA partnership. If you'd like to participate, have insight into how regions can best prepare, lessons learned, or a strategy for the administration and Congress – let us know. Stay safe.

Best,
Fred

NARC LEADERSHIP

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FEMA 2012 Community Resilience Innovation Challenge

Application Due: November 16, 2012

The 2012 Challenge program will support a broad range of activities designed to foster community resilience. Particular focus will be placed on reaching across social sectors, while a specific goal will be increased local dialogue that includes the sharing of information about local risks and the vulnerabilities of and consequences for local residents and their well-being. Activities can range from establishing a way to train neighborhoods to prepare and take care of themselves and others in an emergency situation to co-hosting initiatives with the private sector to actively involve businesses and organizations to improve preparedness programs, from involving children and youth through educational programs and activities to sponsoring drills for local hazards. For more information, visit the [Challenge webpage.](#)

EPA Brownfield Area-wide Planning Grant

Application Due: November 30, 2012

This grant will fund projects to facilitate community involvement and conduct research, training, and technical assistance necessary to develop area-wide plans and implementation strategies to facilitate brownfields assessment, cleanup, and subsequent reuse. Brownfields area-wide planning grant funding must be directed to specific areas affected by a single large or multiple brownfield sites, such as a neighborhood, downtown district, city block, or local commercial corridor. The grant funding will result in an area-wide plan, including implementation strategies, for the brownfields-affected area. For more information, see the [request for proposals.](#)

USDA 2013 Urban and Community Forest Grant

Application Due: December 3, 2012

The 2013 National Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Cost-Share Grant Program will support urban and community forestry projects on nonfederal public land that have a national or widespread impact and application. The National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council is seeking innovative grants proposals for program development, research, and collaboration to address the following two strategic priority issues: proposals that demonstrate the connection between the personal benefits of urban forests and quality of life within a community through community engagement; and proposals that design an urban forestry recruitment program and retention strategies that support existing

urban forestry academic curricula. Urban and community forests demonstrate benefits including urban heat island reduction. All grant funds must be matched at least equally with non-federal source funds. For more information, see the [request for proposals](#).

EPA's 2013 Environmental Justice Small Grants

Application Due: January 7, 2013

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is providing \$1.5 million in environmental justice small grants. The grants enable non-profit organizations to conduct research, provide education and develop solutions to local health and environmental issues in communities overburdened by harmful pollution. Grants are available for up to \$30,000 each. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

NEA Our Town Grant

Application Due: January 14, 2013

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Our Town grant will provide a limited number of grants, ranging from \$25,000 to \$200,000, for creative placemaking projects that contribute towards 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. Complete Our Town application guidelines are available [HERE](#).

UPCOMINGEVENTS

Ask the Utility: Working with Your Local Municipal Utility

Thursday, November 1, 2:00-3:00pm ET

This webinar seeks to educate local government professionals who are interested in learning about how to better collaborate with municipal utilities to develop solar projects in their community. Participants of this webinar will come away with a better understanding of the following issues: how municipal utilities view solar, how to best work with your muni and other utilities, and how to leverage electric utility expertise. Click [HERE](#) to register.

Green Infrastructure Roadmap Webinar

Wednesday, November 7, 3:00-4:00pm ET

Join NARC for a webinar to discuss NARC's new online tool, "A Roadmap to Green Infrastructure in the Federal Agencies." The Roadmap was created to facilitate regions' understanding of the numerous benefits of green infrastructure and the ways in which it can be funded and implemented in their communities. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.

Transportation Committee: MAP-21; a review of requirements and competitive process examples

November 13, 12:00-2:00 pm ET

As the U.S. Department of Transportation continues to draft and prepare guidance that supports the implementation of the recently enacted federal surface transportation authorization, NARC has scheduled two Transportation Committee webinars to focus on different aspects of the law. This webinar will review the changes to the Transportation Alternatives program as well as share two metropolitan planning organization (MPO) experiences with running competitions under the previously authorized Transportation Enhancement program. Click [HERE](#) to access the draft agenda for this webinar. Click [HERE](#) to register for the webinar.

Transportation Committee: MAP-21; measuring success: examining the state of practice in performance measurement

December 11, 12:00-2:00 pm ET

As the U.S. Department of Transportation continues to draft and prepare guidance that supports the implementation of the recently enacted federal surface transportation authorization, NARC has scheduled two Transportation Committee webinars to focus on different aspects of the law. This webinar will review efforts by the federal government, state departments of transportation, and regional planning organizations to create performance measurement systems for their planning and programming processes. An agenda is forthcoming. Click [HERE](#) to register for the webinar.

2013 National Conference of Regions

February 10-13, 2013, Washington, DC

Save the Date for this premier event, focused on all that is happening in Washington, DC. Information about NARC's February event will be available before the end of 2012. Local elected officials, executive directors and staff of regional and metropolitan planning organizations need to be here!

NARC's 47th Annual Conference and Exhibition

June 20-23, 2013, Philadelphia, PA

Save the Date for NARC's annual conference will focus on best practice and programming for regional and metropolitan planning organizations nationwide. Executive Directors and Staff of regional organizations should plan on attending!

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