

October 29, 2018 [View this email in your browser](#)



A Message from NARC's President, The Honorable Geof Benson, Councilmember & NIRPC Commissioner, Town of Beverly Shores, IN:

As America gets ready to vote on November 6, we cannot help but be reminded of the importance of civic engagement and the work that each of you does every day to promote civility and progress in your communities. Regions provide an opportunity to bring disparate viewpoints together and overcome community challenges together. We cannot let the events of the past week diminish our dedication and commitment to the people we represent and the communities we serve as we continue to work to create communities, cities, counties, states and a nation of which we can be proud.

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

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

President Calls for Budget Cut

During an October 17 cabinet meeting, President Trump called for a 5 percent cut from each department. His request follows a Treasury Department and Office of Management and Budget report that the deficit in fiscal year 2018 increased by \$113 billion to \$779 billion. Additionally, the administration's "historic and unprecedented effort to remove job-killing regulations" was discussed, and each cabinet secretary reported on their department's regulatory-reduction initiatives. The president also highlighted his sustained desire to cut regulations and his focus on reducing the time it takes to approve highway and roadway projects.

Democrats Eye Infrastructure Plan if They Retake House

According to *Bloomberg Government*, Democrats are planning to pursue a major transportation and infrastructure measure if they win the House majority in the upcoming midterm elections. Ed Rendell, the former Democratic governor of Pennsylvania who co-founded **Building America's Future**, said House Democrats could start hearings as early as January with the aim of passing a bill by May. Representative David Price said a Democratic majority would "prioritize investment to rebuild our transportation networks, boost affordable housing, and expand broadband access in towns and communities." Challenges may include finding a sustainable funding source for federal investment and growing partisan rancor.

OTHER NEWS

Youth Homelessness Similar in Rural and Urban Communities, Research Suggests

Chapin Hall, an independent policy research center at the University of Chicago, recently released a **report** that finds rural youth are as likely to experience homelessness as those in urban areas. The report also shares that these rural children have less access to support services and employment opportunities than their urban counterparts. The report made several recommendations to address rural youth homelessness and lack of specific data examining the problem, including:

- Requiring collective action from all levels of government and community stakeholders;

- Reexamining federal programs and funding to make sure youth in every part of the country have access to help and support;
- Establishing ongoing grant and assistance programs to specifically address rural youth homelessness; and
- Engaging rural school systems and youth-serving organizations to prevent children from becoming homeless.

How Businesses, Cities, and States Are Leading Climate Action Efforts

The Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) and the Business Council for Sustainable Energy held a briefing to showcase some of the carbon reduction actions being taken by a wide range of states, regions, cities, and companies. The briefing highlighted many examples of how these sub-national actors are leading the charge on cutting carbon emissions. According to an **America's Pledge report**, even without the federal government's participation, the U.S. is on track to cut its emissions by 17 percent by 2025 – two-thirds of the way to the Obama administration's goal of 26 percent. This is thanks to the cities, regions, states, and businesses (like the ones showcased in this briefing) that have made ambitious commitments to decarbonize their economies.

2019 Rudy Bruner Award Call for Entries

The **Rudy Bruner Award for Urban Excellence** (RBA) celebrates transformative places that contribute to the economic, environmental, and social vitality of American cities. One Gold Medal (\$50,000 cash award) and four Silver Medals (\$10,000 cash award) are awarded each biennial. To be eligible, projects must be urban, built, and located within the contiguous United States. Applications may be submitted by anyone involved with the project. Submissions for the 2019 RBA are due December 12, 2018 at midnight EST.

REGIONAL SPOTLIGHT

Durham Extreme Makeover: Government Forms Edition

Last week, Triangle J Council of Governments Executive Director Lee Worsley highlighted an innovative way the City of Durham and Durham County in North Carolina are tackling hard-to-understand government forms. The City of Durham's Innovation Team teamed up with the Durham County Strategic Initiatives Office and Duke University's Center for Advanced Hindsight to host a workshop to make government forms easier, simpler, and less confusing. Over forty participants from local graduate school programs, civic organizations, and the community joined to learn about behavioral economics and help redesign commonly-used government forms. In Worsley's words, the event "demonstrated the power of getting residents and government staff in a room with one another to design solutions together."

MORPC Hosts Annual Summit on Sustainability

Last week, the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) brought hundreds of community leaders together at their Summit on Sustainability to share sustainable ideas and solutions and celebrate individuals and collaborative efforts with their Green Fleet Awards. The conference was filled with breakout sessions on energy, water quality, materials management, local foods, active transportation, land-use development, air quality, social equity, and policy.

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!](#)

Senior Transportation Modeler

Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments, Cincinnati, OH

Data Technician

Puget Sound Regional Council, Seattle, WA

Executive Director

Metropolitan Transportation Commission/Association of Bay Area Governments, San Francisco, CA

Comprehensive Resiliency Planner

Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, Pinellas Park, FL

Associate Transportation Planner

Rogue Valley Council of Governments, Central Point, OR

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.

Base Center Program

Applications Due: April 28, 2019

The purpose of the Administration for Children and Families' Basic Center Program (BCP) is to provide temporary shelter and counseling services to youth who have left home without permission of their parents or guardians, who have been forced to leave home, or who might otherwise end up in law enforcement, child welfare, mental health, or juvenile justice systems. BCPs work to establish or strengthen community-based programs that meet the immediate needs of runaway and homeless youth and their families. BCPs provide youth under 18 years of age with emergency shelter, food, clothing, counseling, and referrals for health care. The award process for FY2019 BCP allows for annual awards over a three-year project period, as funds are available.

Partners for Fish and Wildlife

Applications Due: September 30, 2019

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) Program is a voluntary, incentive-based program that provides direct technical assistance and financial assistance in the form of cooperative and grant agreements to private landowners to restore and conserve fish and wildlife habitat for the benefit of federal trust resources. Partners for Fish and Wildlife program staff coordinate with project partners, stakeholders, and other Fish and Wildlife Service programs to identify geographic focus areas and develop habitat conservation priorities within these focus areas. Project work plans are developed strategically, in coordination with partners, and with substantial involvement from Fish and Wildlife Service field staff. Applicants seeking technical or financial assistance from the PFW program are requested to consult with the Regional PFW program office before developing or applying. Private lands include, but are not limited to: tribal, Hawaiian homeland, city, municipality, non-governmental, and private fee-title properties.

EVENTS

[View full list of events!](#)

NARC Webinar! Digital Inclusion for Regional Development

November 13, 3:00-4:00 PM ET

To fully realize the potential of broadband in our communities, we must ensure that all individuals have access to this technology and the skills needed to connect to the digital world. Tune in to this NARC webinar, in partnership with BroadbandUSA, for an overview of digital inclusion and how it can influence economic mobility, educational achievement, and health outcomes in your community. You will also hear examples of digital inclusion efforts going on across the country, including the regional digital inclusion collaboration that Eastgate Regional Council of Governments has been facilitating in Northeast Ohio.

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.

Disaster Mitigation Saves: The Business Case for Building Stronger, Smarter Infrastructure

October 30, 11:00 – 12:00 PM ET

This joint webinar hosted by The Pew Charitable Trusts and the National Institute of Building Sciences will feature the release of the latest Interim Report of the Institute's "Mitigation Saves" multi-year study. The new report builds on the results presented earlier this year that every \$1 invested in disaster mitigation through federal grants saves society \$6 in future disaster costs. These latest results examine the return-on-investment associated with resilient infrastructure related to transportation, electric grid, and water systems.

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.

Broadband Connectivity is Transforming Healthcare

November 14, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

Broadband connectivity is critical for many reasons, including access to quality healthcare. From remote patient monitoring to mobile health applications accessed via smartphones, tablets, or other devices, advances in telemedicine and telehealth technologies have impacted patient care and health outcomes far away from hospitals and doctors' offices. Connected-care services significantly reduce economic and administrative costs for patients and health care providers. This Broadband USA webinar will explore innovations in telehealth and telemedicine applications and programs that two leading universities have developed to improve patient health in their states, especially in rural and remote areas.

Impacts of Property Assessed Clean Energy Programs

November 14, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

Established by state legislation and enabled by local governments, Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing leverages private capital to upgrade existing homes and buildings to reduce energy consumption, promote renewable power, and mitigate the effects of natural disasters. The improvements are repaid over time through a special assessment on the property owner's property tax bill. Join this REMI webinar to hear the impacts PACE financing has on the built environment, natural environment, and economic vitality in communities that these programs serve.

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?

FCI Briefing Series: Census 2020 Messaging Testing Results

November 14, 3:00-4:30 PM ET

For this Funders Census Initiative (FCI) webinar, Monica Vines, a Census Bureau researcher, will be giving an overview on the messaging research conducted by the Bureau and their findings. This research included the 50,000-person Census Barriers, Attitudes, and Motivators Survey (CBAMS) as well as many additional focus groups. Please attend with your questions – they are leaving most of the 90 minutes with the Bureau for a robust discussion.

CONTACT US

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