

October 31, 2016

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

eREGIONS



NARC's new address is:

**660 NORTH CAPITOL ST NW
SUITE 440*
WASHINGTON, DC 20001**

**Please note that the suite number has changed.*

EXECUTIVE NOTE

Colleagues,

NARC is thrilled to announce that we have moved our offices to join the National Association of Counties (NACo) and National League of Cities in a brand new building across the street from our old location. Fifty years ago, the two organizations established NARC as a recognition of the value of regional organizations in helping to facilitate cross-jurisdictional partnerships and build stronger communities. We are over-the-moon to be back with both partner organizations and look forward to our continued joint efforts. We thank the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments for hosting us for the past eight years.

While we have focused on our move, we have kept our eye on the national elections and the peaceful transition to a new administration. Last week, NARC Past President Penny Gross joined several other organizations in speaking on local government priorities for a new President. Speaking on behalf of the NACo, Ms. Gross highlighted the value of regions in collaborating on transportation.

NARC congratulates Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) Board Member Elaine Clegg for her second term as Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) President. We look forward to working together with AMPO on MPO concerns and ways to strengthen these vital organizations.

Last week, NARC hosted a meeting of the regional councils, Clean Cities coalitions, and technical partners from our U.S. Department of Energy project promoting the value of alternative fuel vehicles for local governments. The Pima Association of Governments, Mid America Regional Council, Metropolitan Area Planning Council, North Central Texas Council of Government, and Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments joined NARC here in DC for a daylong session on the best practices for moving toward alternative fuel vehicles. The team focused on gaseous fuels and electric vehicles and also heard an update from the Mid America Regional Council on their pilot alternative fuel vehicle procurement that is well underway. The meeting included a presentation from the Federal Highway Administration on the use of federal Congestion Management and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds for the purchase of alternative fuel vehicles and the necessary infrastructure. The goal of the project will be a national procurement allowing all

regional councils to promote the use of and purchase of alternative fuel vehicles for their member governments.

Best,
Leslie Wollack

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

Congress will return in mid-November.

Voting Resources for Older Americans and People with Disabilities

Election day, November 8, is right around the corner. **Several federal laws** protect the voting rights of older Americans and people with disabilities and require accessible polling places. Here are some voting resources for older adults and people with disabilities :

- **USA.gov/Voting** has information on how to vote, voter registration requirements, and deadlines, and locating your state or local election office website.
- The U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division has **more information about voting laws, enforcement actions, and how to file a complaint if you feel your voting rights have been violated.**
- Individuals living in long-term care facilities who have concerns about exercising their right to vote can contact their long-term care ombudsman program by looking them up at the **National Ombudsman Resource Center.**
- Some Area Agencies on Aging and Aging and Disability Resource Centers may offer rides. Visit the **Eldercare Locator website** to find one in your community.

State Protection and Advocacy Systems (P&As) are another valuable resource. The Voting Access Program, Help America Vote Act (HAVA) administered by the Administration for Community Living, provides funding to P&As to support efforts to ensuring full participation by people with disabilities in the electoral process, including registering to vote, casting a vote, and accessing polling places.

EPA Releases EJ2020 Action Agenda

Last Thursday, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released the **EJ2020 Action Agenda**, the agency's Environmental Justice Strategic Plan for 2016-2020. This plan was developed based on robust public input – through thousands of comments on previous drafts, from more than one hundred meetings across the country, and four national webinars. EJ 2020 has three overarching goals:

- To deepen environmental justice practice in EPA's programs that improve the health and environment of overburdened communities;
- To work with federal, state, tribal, community, and industry partners to expand our impact across the country; and
- To measure the progress we're making on our most significant environmental justice challenges.

Learn more from this **fact sheet**, **video**, and EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy's **blog post**.

Recently Posted EDA NPRMs

Three new notices of proposed rulemakings (NPRMs) from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) are now available on the Federal Register. The **Regional Innovation Program** NPRM is open for comments until November 21. The Regional Innovation Strategies Program (RIS), the centerpiece of the Regional Innovation Program, awards grants for capacity-building programs that provide early-stage funding to startup companies. This NPRM lays out the regulatory framework for both programs and specifically focuses on the structure of the RIS program.

The **Revolving Loan Fund Program Changes and General Updates to PWEDA Regulations** NPRM requests comments on updates in implementing the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (PWEDA). The NPRM focuses on changes to several aspects of the Revolving Loan Fund. This NPRM is open for comments until December 2.

Lastly, the **Innovative Technologies in Manufacturing Loan Guarantee Program** NPRM proposes and requests comments on the EDA's implementation of section 26 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980, enacted as part of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010. These laws authorize EDA to provide loan guarantees for obligations to small-and medium-sized manufacturers for the use or production of innovative technologies. Comments on due on this NPRM by [December 20](#).

ACL Releases IL Final Rule

Last week the Administration for Community Living (ACL) **final rule for Independent Living (IL)** programs was released in the Federal Register. This final rule clarifies the requirements of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended by the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act* for Centers for Independent Living and State Independent Living Councils. The final rule clarifies requirements of new core services and definitions, and addresses the roles and responsibilities of the State Independent Living Council. The rule will become effective November 25, 2016. Send feedback about the final rule to ILFinalRuleFeedback@acl.hhs.gov.

OTHER NEWS

Overtime Rules: Questions Answered

Plews Shadley Racher & Braun, LLP offered to follow up on a few questions from members regarding the new labor overtime rules discussed at the **Executive Directors Conference** in September. Here they are:

- The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) maintains a number of fact sheets on various wage/hour topics. DOL maintains a searchable **index** of available fact sheets.
- There are multiple DOL resources (also mentioned in the **PowerPoint** presentation) that can help employers navigate the new overtime rule, including the **Small Business Compliance Guide** and the **FAQ Section**. Non-profit entities should consult DOL's **Non-Profit Guidance**.
- There was a question about when government entities can use compensatory time. Developing a compliant comp time program requires a fact intensive analysis, but there is some helpful information available online. A DOL fact sheet discussing comp time broadly is available **here**. The rule setting forth the "prescribed conditions" mentioned in the fact sheet is available **here**.
- There was a question as to government contractors and overtime obligations. This DOL **fact sheet** provides information regarding for entities that contract with the federal government. Contracting entities should review applicable state and local laws, as well as the contracting documents, to determine which minimum wage/overtime standards apply.
- Attempts to block or delay the new rule are ongoing. There have been **multiple lawsuits** filed to block the new rule in recent weeks, including one in which 21 states are plaintiffs. Additionally, the House recently **voted to delay implementation of the rule** and the Senate is considering a companion measure. This proposed legislation is unlikely to become law, as the Obama Administration has signaled that it will veto the bill.

REGION SPOTLIGHT



AACOG Receives 2016 NADO Innovation Award

The Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) recently received a 2016 Innovation Award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) for its Supporting San Antonio's Military project. Upon completion, this project will provide a stable water source for Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA), which serves one-third of the military members stationed in

Texas. As the grant lead, AACOG will receive funds, purchase, and donate materials to JBSA, contingent on the approval of the Secretary of the U.S. Air Force.

FEATURED JOBS

View full list of jobs!

Planner III

West Florida Regional Planning Council, Pensacola, FL

Planner I

West Florida Regional Planning Council, Pensacola, FL

Regional Planner

Flint Hills Regional Council, Ogden, KS

Payroll Specialist

San Diego Association of Governments, San Diego, CA

Planner

Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho, Meridian, ID

Alamo Local Authority Team Leader

Alamo Area Council of Governments, San Antonio, TX

Transit Grants Administration

Sacramento Area Council of Governments, Sacramento, CA

Analyst I or II

Sacramento Area Council of Governments, Sacramento, CA

FUNDING

View full list of grants!

U.S. Commerce Department to Build Nation's First One-Stop Economic Development Platform in Partnership with NYU Wagner and Others

The Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service at New York University will lead a consortium of experts in developing recommended improvements to how the federal government develops and disseminates information about the various program resources it provides for economic development. Among the outcomes of this project will be a publicly available resource allowing communities to choose more easily which federal programs are best matched to their needs. This resource will help communities make more effective cases for integrated federal support of complex regional partnerships for economic development.

The winning consortium consists of senior researchers and program administrators from **NYU Wagner**, the **International City/County Management Association**, and **Jobs for the Future**. The team are all active members of the federally funded **National Resource Network**, a \$10 million funded program aimed at assisting 300 of the most economically challenged cities across the U.S. The work will be conducted under a \$400,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce's **Economic Development Administration** (EDA), in support of its newly-established Office of Economic Development Integration whose mission is to lead the federal government's work in establishing methodologies supporting the integration of economic development resources across federal agencies.

Specific goals of the project include documentation, through detailed case studies, of successful initiatives that resulted from collaborations that were supported by multiple federal programs, recommendations on harmonizing program requirements, and aggressive outreach with findings.

Submit Your Sustainable Project for the 2017 Energy Globe Award

Deadline: November 18

With 177 participating countries, Energy Globe is the biggest platform for sustainability. Energy Globe's most important goal is to introduce and award innovative showcase projects and smart

technologies from all over the world that are capable of creating sustainable change. No project is too small, no project is too big!

Each year, the international Energy Globe Awards for each of six categories are presented in the course of a ceremony by international celebrities. A 10,000 Euro cash prize is distributed among the six categories. The categories are Earth, Fire, Water, Air, Youth, and Sustainable Plastics – the 4 basic elements of life, projects implemented by young people, and the sustainable use of plastics. Projects with a focus on the conservation of resources, improvement of air and water quality, energy efficiency, use of renewable energies, recycling, or creating awareness for these areas can be submitted. The best projects of each individual country are presented with national awards. For questions please contact the Energy Globe team via email at office@energyglobe.info.

EVENTS

View full list of events!

2018 IECC Online Voting with cdpACCESS Webinar

November 3 1:00 PM ET

November 9 12:00 PM ET

November 17 3:00 PM ET

The Energy Efficient Codes Coalition will provide this briefing on the upcoming nationwide online voting period for the 2018 IECC using the cdpACCESS system of the International Code Council, nominally scheduled for November 8-22. The briefing will review the outcomes from the Kansas City hearings that determined the code changes on the final ballot. The briefing will cover the IECC's *Voting Guide and Recommendations* for measures to be approved or modified to keep the IECC on track for efficiency gains, and on the backsliding and rollback measures to be disapproved. This webinar will be repeated three times in November. Please choose the date which works best for you above.

Community Initiative Update and Broadband Adoption Discussion

November 10, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

Participate in this month's discussion about the BroadbandUSA Community Connectivity Initiative – a local planning tool that promotes broadband planning, action, and progress. In addition to providing an overview of the initiative, BroadbandUSA will dig into topics that shape our understanding of fixed and mobile broadband access. Be ready for an in-depth discussion about how national data analytics can help spur local conversations about broadband availability, service quality, and competition in addition to an exploration of assessment elements designed to leverage public assets to promote fair use and facilitate deployment. Pre-registration required.

How Does Broadband Contribute to Economic Development?

November 16, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

Now that broadband has been around for some time, have the promised economic benefits come to fruition? How can we measure these benefits and who in your community is benefiting? Join this BroadbandUSA webinar to learn the latest news from practitioners in the field. Pre-registration required.

CONTACT US

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