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EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Dear Colleagues,

Tomorrow, barring the need for runoffs or recounts, we should all know the results of what is likely the most expensive midterm election in U.S. history. To help you navigate the lame duck and 114th Congress, NARC has set up a post-election webinar to discuss what legislation we can expect before the year closes, and the changes to committees once the new Congress takes office in January. We hope you can join us on November 13 at 2:00 PM ET. See registration details below.

Thanks,
Joanna

PROGRAM UPDATE

Giving Clean Energy to Those Who Need It Most: A low income working family living in the U.S. spends 5-15% of their income on energy bills. This blog post, released by NARC for the *SunShot Solar Outreach Partnership*, details why giving solar energy to low income families provides a valuable service to local communities and the environment. Click [HERE](#) to read the blog.

Enhancing Sustainable Communities with Green

Infrastructure: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its latest report on building resilient communities through the use of green infrastructure. *Enhancing Sustainable Communities with Green Infrastructure* aims to help local governments, utilities, neighborhood groups, nonprofits, and stakeholders navigate the complex regulatory landscape associated with the implementation of green infrastructure projects. The report lays the groundwork for localized urban forestry and directs readers to additional resources for planning. Click [HERE](#) for the report, and [HERE](#) for an EPA blog post that highlights the transformative power of green infrastructure.

EPA Issues Clean Power Plan Supplemental Proposal: The EPA is providing information concerning the Clean Power Plan. Materials include a [Notice of Data Availability](#) to heighten public awareness of issues and ideas consistently raised by stakeholders, and a [supplemental proposal](#) that sets carbon goals for areas of Indian Country and U.S. Territories where fossil fuel-fired power plants are located. Click [HERE](#) for more information about EPA's *Carbon Pollution Standards and Clean Power Plan*.

ACS Content Review: The U.S. Census Bureau recently completed the first phase of a comprehensive content review of the American Community Survey (ACS), using an objective cost-benefit analysis. With the aim of delivering maximum public benefit while ensuring a minimum of public burden, the Census Bureau's analysis yields seven questions slated for removal from the survey. A 60-day *Federal Register* notice is available for comments [HERE](#), through December 30. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

POLICYUPDATE

Both the Senate and House are in recess.

CDC Updates Ebola Monitoring Guidelines: Last week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued revised interim [guidance](#) to help state and local officials make decisions about managing the movement of people being monitored for Ebola. CDC recommends that people at highest risk, such as health care workers who have been handling bodily fluids of infected patients, quarantine themselves voluntarily at home for 21 days and receive daily visits from public health officials. Direct monitoring is also recommended for those at some risk, but the CDC suggests that further restrictions should be determined on a case-by-case basis. Click [HERE](#) to read the press release.

Administration Announces Manufacturing Executive Action: Last week, President Obama announced [new executive actions](#) to help spur advanced manufacturing in the U. S. The announcement was in conjunction with the release of the final report from the Advanced Manufacturing Partnership Steering Committee, [Accelerating U.S. Advanced Manufacturing](#), which recommends a manufacturing strategy focused on enabling innovation, securing the talent pipeline, and improving the business climate. Actions include a \$130 million, five-year competition through the Manufacturing Extension Partnership to help small manufacturers access advanced technologies, new

markets, and growth capital, as well as an investment of \$300 million for technologies identified as critical to U.S. competitiveness, specifically advanced materials, advanced sensors, and digital manufacturing. The announcement comes as part of the Administration's aim to build a National Network for Manufacturing Innovation, consisting of regional hubs that will accelerate development of cutting edge manufacturing technologies.

New AASHTO Funding Matrix Released: As the search continues for ways to fund a new surface transportation authorization, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) released an updated matrix of 38 funding options last week. This update has new easy-to-understand graphics that provide a bubble display and a bar chart allowing viewers to see how much revenue, or how little, some measures would yield based on the illustrative rates provided. This matrix could make it easier for legislators to analyze funding options to achieve desired levels of surface transportation investment. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Amtrak Blue Ribbon Panel to Study Chicago-Area Delays: Amtrak recently announced the creation of a blue-ribbon panel of experts to reduce congestion in the Chicago area and make rail traffic smoother. Amtrak trains to or through Chicago experience extreme delays and poor on-time performance. According to Amtrak, trains between Chicago and Cleveland experience delays of four hours or more on a near-daily basis. This panel includes current and former Amtrak officials, the Surface Transportation Board, and former Congressman Jack Quinn. A report from the panel should be issued by the end of May 2015. Read more information [HERE](#).

REGIONS360

ETCOG Receives Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting for 13th Consecutive Year: The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) awarded the *Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting* to the East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) for its 2013 comprehensive annual financial report. This achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. Click [HERE](#) for more information about ETCOG.

MEMBER REQUESTS

Please send responses to Anna Rosenbaum, 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. PVPC is 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?

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

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

EPA - Assistance for Building Resilience in Your Community

Applications Due: November 20, 2014

The *Build Blocks for Sustainable Communities* program aims to help communities adopt sustainable growth strategies. Through the program, communities will work to increase resilience to natural disasters and strengthen their economy, while protecting health and the environment. Communities may apply for assistance on the following topics: equitable development; infill development for distressed cities; bikeshare planning; sustainable strategies for small cities and rural areas; and flood resilience for riverine and coastal communities. Click [HERE](#) for details.

National Resource Network - Request for Economic Development Assistance

Applications Accepted on a Rolling Basis

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development announced the formal launch of the National Resource Network in May of this year. Since then, the Network staff has been conducting “beta” engagements on the ground in a handful of economically distressed cities around the country as well as curating an online resource and help center for cities. Cities that

meet several criteria can submit a short form and be considered for technical assistance in one or more operational, policy and programmatic areas that will be determined in conjunction with city government. Projects vary in duration – from four months to one year -- and cost -- from \$50,000 to \$500,000; 75% of the cost of direct assistance will be covered by federal funds provided to the Network. Click [HERE](#) for eligibility criteria and other information.

UPCOMINGEVENTS

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

WEBINAR: Innovative Financing for Green Infrastructure

Tuesday, November 4, 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM ET

Financing green infrastructure is critical to move projects from the planning phase to implementation. This webinar will provide an overview of green infrastructure financing strategies and highlight a community that leveraged *Clean Water State Revolving Fund* resources for a flood mitigation project that provided multiple economic, environmental, and social benefits. Click [HERE](#) to register.

Reminder! WEBINAR: NARC Election Webinar

November 13, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

Join NARC for a webinar on the results of the 2014 elections and what they will mean for regional and local governments. The upcoming election will determine the makeup of the 114th Congress, which will be seated in January. The results 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 will also look ahead to the lame duck session for 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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