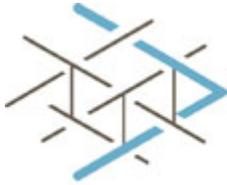


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## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XII, No. 42, November 13, 2012

# eRegions

### EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

Congratulations to President Obama, members of the incoming 113th Congress, and local and state officials on their elections. We look forward to working with the President, this and the new Congress on issues of importance to regions and local governments. The President and Congressional leaders are meeting Friday to discuss the "fiscal cliff." A growing number of writers and economists are exploring the positive side of slipping over the "cliff" – including the automatic repeal of tax cuts and sequestered spending

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



## 2013 NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF REGIONS

FEBRUARY 10-12, 2013

THE RITZ-CARLTON HOTEL  
WASHINGTON, DC

**REGISTER TODAY!**

## PROGRAM UPDATE

**NARC Final 2012 Webinar on MAP-21:** As the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) continues to draft and prepare guidance that supports the implementation of the recently enacted federal surface transportation authorization, NARC will schedule its final Transportation Committee webinar, which will focus on Measuring Success: Examining the state of practice in performance management. The webinar is scheduled for December 11, 2012 at 12:00 pm ET. Click [HERE](#) to register.

**Solar Planning Briefing Papers:** The American Planning Association created a series of briefing papers series that provides planning fundamentals for public officials and engaged citizens. The

cuts. This alone, if nothing else, could pull us out of our debt problem.

Missing in the discussion is the effect on programs and the people they serve. For example, *Forbes* reports the impact of cuts on older Americans would result in, "a reduction in nearly 2 million rides for seniors, a cut in case management services for 290,000 seniors, and a cut of 750,000 adult day slots. Caregiver supports would be cut by \$12.6 million, social service block grants (which fund programs such as meals, transportation and adult foster care), would be cut for 345,000 people aged 60 and over. More than 1 million seniors would lose homemaker services and 1.5 million would lose in-home personal care services." While a high level discussion is necessary, let's remember the real costs to many Americans.

Best,  
Fred

## **NARC**LEADERSHIP

President  
Hon. David F. Shafer,  
Clerk/Treasurer,  
Town of Munster, IN

Planning Advisory Service's (PAS) QuickNotes identify five strategic points of intervention during the solar planning process. Click [HERE](#) to access the briefing papers.

**Climate Modeling 101 Primer:** The National Academy of Sciences has created a website to explain the basics of climate modeling. The six-part primer starts by describing the differences between weather and climate, and then provides an overview of computer models, the process of constructing a climate model, the steps involved in validating climate models, examples of individuals and companies that use climate models, and links to key developers of climate models. Visit the [Climate Modeling 101 website](#) to learn more.

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## **POLICY**UPDATE

*The House and Senate are in the **Lame Duck** session.*

**Elections Update:** NARC is in the process of pulling together 2012 election results information. In the meantime, click [HERE](#) to use *Politico's* site for comprehensive Senate, House and state-level results.

**Sequestration Update:** The President and Congressional leaders are scheduled to meet this Friday to discuss avoiding the "fiscal cliff". Leading up to this meeting, President Obama will be conducting meeting with labor groups, think tanks, and corporations to get input on a plan. Last week the National League of Cities hosted a webinar on sequestration and its impact on cities. Click [HERE](#) to access their PowerPoint; click [HERE](#) to access their sequestration website. Click [HERE](#) to access the National Association of Counties' sequestration PowerPoint. Click [HERE](#) to access NARC's sequestration information. Click on the links below for recent sequestration information and news:

- Potential impacts on [environmental programs](#)
- Potential impacts on [transportation programs](#)
- State of [Texas](#) preparation activities

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## **PARTNER**UPDATE

**NLC Releases *Getting Things Done Together*.** This workbook offers a new and better way to plan for getting things done regionally. It was

**Chair Sean Dey,**  
Executive Directors  
Council  
Executive Director, West  
Michigan Shoreline  
Regional Development  
Commission

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of *eRegions*, **visit our**  
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created for individuals who are ready and willing to work toward accomplishing an important goal for their communities and neighboring areas. The workbook includes questions, discussion, and tables to fill out that will help community officials make decisions about how to move from having an idea to actually getting something done. Click [HERE](#) for additional information and to access the workbook.

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## **GRANT OPPORTUNITIES**

### **The Coastal Resilience Networks Program**

*Deadlines: Letters of Intent November 19, 2012; Applications by January 11, 2013.*

The U.S. Department of Commerce is offering grants through The Coastal Resilience Networks program that provides support for activities that enhance the resilience of coastal communities to natural hazard and climate risks through a regional or national network. Support is provided in the following three U.S. regions: the U.S. Flag Pacific Islands (Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands), the Gulf of Mexico Coast (the State of Alabama, Gulf Coast areas of Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas), and the West Coast (California, Oregon and Washington). Click [HERE](#) to learn more about this opportunity.

### **The Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program**

*Application Deadline: November 28, 2012.*

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is offering funding through The Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program to support projects designed to meet the food needs of low-income people; increase the self-reliance of communities in providing for their own food needs; promote comprehensive responses to local food, farm and nutrition issues; and meet specific state, local, or neighborhood food and agriculture needs. Click [HERE](#) for more information about this program.

### **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 Art's (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](#).

### **The Gannett Foundation's Community Action Grants**

*Application Deadline: February 16, 2013.*

The Foundation's Community Action Grants support nonprofit organizations with funding priority given to programs that focus on education and neighborhood improvement, economic development, youth development, community problem-solving, assistance to disadvantaged people, environmental conservation and cultural enrichment. For more information on these grants, click [HERE](#).

### **The Surdna Foundation**

*Application Deadline: Letters of Inquiry accepted year around.*

The Surdna Foundation offers funding to nonprofit organizations that seek to help communities build wealth in a sustainable manner. The Surdna Foundation's Strong Local Economies program aims to help create communities of opportunity that offer good jobs within reach for low- and moderate-income residents, and provide sustainable development solutions that enable people to easily travel between their homes and jobs, schools, and day-to-day services. For more information on the application process, click [HERE](#).

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## **UPCOMINGEVENTS**

### ***Successful PACE Program Webinar***

**Wednesday, November 14, 1:00-2:00pm ET**

Join the EPA and the Western Riverside Council of Governments to discuss Riverside County's Home Energy Renovation Opportunity (HERO) Program, which has financed more than \$50 million in home energy retrofits since it was launched in December 2011. The HERO program helps residential and commercial property owners pay for solar installations, energy retrofits and water conservation projects. Click [HERE](#) to register.

### ***Ask the Utility Webinar: Working with your Local Municipal Utility***

**Friday, November 16, 2:00-3:00pm ET**

Join ICLEI for a webinar focused on discussing the opportunities and limitations of increasing distributed solar electricity, and how municipal utilities have worked successfully with local governments to implement best practices and policies around solar development and interconnection. Click [HERE](#) to register.

***ICMA Webinar: Negotiating With Vendors: How to Get What You Want***

**November 28, 1:00-2:30 pm ET**

Learn how to negotiate with vendors to get the best deal, how to better manage your contracts, and how to get out of a bad contract when no other alternative will work. First developed as an education session for the 2012 ICMA Annual Conference, this web conference brings the panelists together again to further explore this topic. Led by Lon Pluckhahn, city manager for Marion, Iowa, this discussion will feature Maria Lasday, village manager for Bannockburn, Illinois; Bill Coleman, local government consultant for the SAS Institute Inc., Cary, North Carolina; Chantal Cotton, assistant to the city manager for College Park, Maryland, and Kyle Gulya, an attorney with Von Briesen & Roper s.c., Madison, Wisconsin. Click [HERE](#) to register.

***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!

***Brownfields Renewal: Bringing Stakeholders Together***

**May 15-17, 2012, Atlanta, GA**

The National Brownfields Conference is the largest event in the nation that focuses on environmental revitalization and economic redevelopment. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

***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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