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## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

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# eRegions

### EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

While it may be a quiet week in Washington, your NARC staff is busy preparing for several upcoming events – we look forward to your attendance:

2013 NCR: [Registration](#) is open for our February conference. Make plans to join us for this important event; an agenda will be released soon.

MAP-21 Roundtables: [Registration](#) is open for our MAP-21 Implementation meetings in early 2013.

We encourage you to participate and provide

[PROGRAM 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's MAP-21 Implementation Meetings:** NARC is hosting regional roundtables to examine and discuss the implementation of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) from the perspective of metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) and regional councils of government (COGs). Click [HERE](#) to register for one of the following roundtables or [HERE](#) for additional information.

- **Orlando, FL** - January 25, 2013
- **Sacramento, CA** - January 29, 2013
- **Phoenix, AZ** - January 31, 2013
- **Indianapolis, IN** - February 27-28, 2013
- **Tulsa, OK** - March 4-5, 2013

feedback – doing so will ensure that your voice is heard!

Best,  
Fred

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Clerk/Treasurer,

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Communications

**Erika Young**

Transportation Director

To access past issues of *eRegions*, **visit our website.**

Make NARC your homepage — **click here to learn how.**

- **Worcester, MA** - March 8, 2013
- **Washington, DC** - March 14, 2013

**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.

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## **PARTNERUPDATE**

**“Transitions, the Cliff, and Two Modest Proposals”** Life must be exhilarating and easy for people who see fiscal issues as matters of Good and Evil. For glass-half-full folks who are accustomed to muddling through, the high melodrama of *The Cliff* is a terrible way to get at the choices that will shape our futures. Click **HERE** to access this latest issue of the National League of Cities' *Emerging Issues* column by Bill Barnes.

**Brownfields 2013 Conference:** The Brownfields 2013 educational program has been released on the conference website for public viewing! See what you can learn at the 15<sup>th</sup> National Brownfields Conference. There will be over 100 educational sessions delivered in an assortment of interactive formats, providing expertise on a wide range of topics to all knowledge levels. The educational program is intended to give attendees an improved understanding of the broad industry of redevelopment and to spur valuable discussion and networking. Click **HERE** to access the updated conference website.

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## **GRANTOPPORTUNITIES**

### **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.

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

*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.

### **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

### ***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.

### ***NARC's MAP-21 Implementation Roundtable***

**January 25, 2013, Orlando, FL**

NARC is hosting regional roundtables to examine and discuss the implementation of MAP-21 from the perspective of metropolitan planning organizations and regional councils of government. Click [HERE](#) to register for one of the following roundtables or [HERE](#) for additional information.

***NARC's MAP-21 Implementation Roundtable***

**January 29, 2013, Sacramento, CA**

Click [HERE](#) to register for one of the following roundtables or [HERE](#) for additional information.

***NARC's MAP-21 Implementation Roundtable***

**January 31, 2013, Phoenix, AZ**

Click [HERE](#) to register for one of the following roundtables or [HERE](#) for additional information.

***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 MAP-21 Implementation Roundtable***

**February 27-28, 2013, Indianapolis, IN**

Click [HERE](#) to register for one of the following roundtables or [HERE](#) for additional information.

***NARC's MAP-21 Implementation Roundtable***

**March 4-5, 2013, Tulsa, OK**

Click [HERE](#) to register for one of the following roundtables or [HERE](#) for additional information.

***NARC's MAP-21 Implementation Roundtable***

**March 8, 2013, Worcester, MA**

Click [HERE](#) to register for one of the following roundtables or [HERE](#) for additional information.

***NARC's MAP-21 Implementation Roundtable***

**March 14, 2013, Washington, DC**

Click [HERE](#) to register for one of the following roundtables or [HERE](#) for additional information.

***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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