



Member Note: Please update your files to reflect NARC's new address: 660 North Capitol Street NW Suite 440, Washington, DC 20001.

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

The House returns Tuesday when House Democrats will vote on their leadership for the next Congress. The Senate is in session and expects to vote this week on a bill to study the use of technology to improve healthcare programs in rural areas (S 2873).

Overview

The president-elect is expected to continue the transition and identify key officials. Late last week, President-elect Trump announced his pick of Michigan philanthropist and education activist Betsy DeVos. Be sure to join NARC for a **webinar** on December 5th to discuss the transition and election results and what they mean for regions and local governments.

Congress has two weeks to pass a stopgap funding bill and is expected to extend current spending levels through next March, despite Defense Department concerns that the funding is insufficient and would prevent the Pentagon from programs already scheduled to begin in the new fiscal year.

Additional local priorities for the Congressional lame duck session include legislation to extend the EPA brownfields program which is contained in energy reform legislation passed by both the House and Senate. Brownfields reauthorization passed the Senate twice – once as a freestanding bill and once as part of the larger energy bill. The House did not pass brownfields legislation which can be considered as part of the comprehensive energy bill conference. The legislation also includes energy efficiency provisions for improving local building energy efficiency by allowing energy cost savings to be a consideration in determining the value of a home. The conferees began meeting in September but the election results delayed action. NARC supports action to reach agreement on a joint House-Senate energy bill and reauthorize funding and technical assistance for community brownfield clean-up efforts before Congress leaves for the year.

NARC also encourages Congressional action on the Water Resources Development Act to authorize programs under the U.S Army Corps of Engineers and funding to address the Flint, Michigan drinking water contamination. The House and Senate have both adopted versions of WRDA, although the Senate passed a more comprehensive wastewater and drinking water version. If Congress fails to reach agreement before adjourning next month, lawmakers will have to begin the process again in the new Congress.

Court Temporarily Halts Department of Labor Overtime Rule

Last week, the US District Court for the Eastern District of Texas halted implementation of the new overtime rule set to take effect on December 1, 2016 in response to a lawsuit by 21 states challenging the new rule. The injunction applies nationwide and delays indefinitely the controversial rule which would nearly double the threshold for overtime pay for professional employees to \$47,476 from the current \$23,660.

Although the ruling is a temporary hold on the DOL rule, it has been identified as part of a bundle

of rules which would be opposed by the new Trump administration. Lawmakers in the House and Senate have called for delay of the rules as well and the House passed legislation delaying the start day for six months.

OTHER NEWS

New Report Explores How Cities and Counties can Combat the Opioid Epidemic

A new joint report from National Association of Counties (NACo) and the National League of Cities (NLC) examines how cities and counties can strengthen collaboration with each other and state, federal, private-sector and non-profit partners to tackle the opioid crisis. The report, **A Prescription for Action: Local Leadership in Ending the Opioid Crisis**, produced recommendations aimed at city and county officials. They include action steps on:

1. Leading in a crisis
2. Focusing on education and prevention
3. Expanding treatment

Several of the recommendations are accompanied by existing local practices from cities and counties. The report also includes recommendations for state and federal officials, who are pivotal partners in local efforts to combat opioid misuse, diversion, overdose and death.

Past NARC President Gary Moore will discuss the project during a session at NARC's **National Conference of Regions** in February.

EPA Discusses Potential Beneficiaries to the Mitigation Trust Under the Volkswagen Partial Settlement

The Environmental Protection Agency recently released a presentation for prospective beneficiaries to the mitigation trust under the partial settlement with Volkswagen. The presentation summarizes the partial settlement, highlights useful resources, outlines the Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) investment requirement, and discusses the mitigation trust in detail. EPA also released a **FAQ sheet** for beneficiaries.

FEATURED JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Principal Planner – Water Resources

Triangle J Council of Governments, Durham, NC

Transportation Planner

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, Philadelphia, PA

Associate Planner

Yakima Valley Conference of Governments, Yakima, WA

Budget Officer

Alamo Area Council of Governments, San Antonio, TX

Psychological Examiner

Alamo Area Council of Governments, San Antonio, TX

FUNDING

[View full list of grants!](#)

RFA: Walkability Funding for Regions

[Application deadline: November 30, 11:59 PM ET](#)

The National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD) in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (NCCDPHP) Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity (DNPAO) seeks applications from Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) regions (or other similar regional entities) for competitive funding assistance to support attendance at the third annual walkability action institute, entitled "*Step It Up!: Action Institute to Increase*

Walking and Walkability.”

Applicants must commit to accomplish all of the project’s stated deliverables as part of course participation, and must establish an interdisciplinary team of four-to-six team members. Four of these team members must represent the required fields of public health, planning, transportation, and elected officials. Applicant teams may have up to two additional team members representative of other stakeholder disciplines.

Email questions to Karma Edwards at kedwards@chronicdisease.org. All applications and letters of commitment are due by email in one PDF document to Karma Edwards. Fax or mailed applications will not be accepted.

EVENTS

View full list of events!

NARC Webinar! How the VW Settlement Could Impact Regions

November 29, 1:30-2:30 PM ET

After it was determined that Volkswagen (VW) had intentionally violated emissions controls, VW has agreed to settle by spending up to \$14.7 billion to remediate the excess NOx emissions. A majority of this money is going to vehicle buyback and modification programs (\$10.03 billion) for affected consumers -- but \$2.7 billion of this settlement money is going towards NOx reduction programs via the Environmental Mitigation Trust with an additional \$2 billion going towards ZEV programs around the country. Join Ben Prochazka from the Electrification Coalition for an overview that will provide general information about the current status of the consent decree, the anticipated timeline, and how this funding can be used to accelerate vehicle electrification.

Brookings Event: Sustainability, Smart Cities, and the Internet of Things

Thursday December 1, 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM ET

Join the Center for Technology Innovation at Brookings to discuss the future of intelligent and data-driven cities. A panel of experts will examine the potential for technology to create sustainable urban environments through data from billions of sensors, the intelligent management of advanced networks, and sophisticated learning using real-time data analytics. Following the discussion, panelists will respond to audience questions.

Strengthening Flood Resilience through Integrated Water Management

December 1, 1-2:30 PM ET

Flooding can strike suddenly, devastating communities and usually affecting a regional swath-not just one political jurisdiction or man-made boundary. And in many communities, the frequency and magnitude of flooding events is expected to increase because of a changing climate. Future floods will affect not only businesses and residents located on the floodplain, but also low-lying areas affected by stormwater. Join the US Water Alliance and the River Network to learn how two different utilities are using integrated water management to tackle flooding challenges and reduce future flood risks in their regions.

NARC Webinar! NARC Election Webinar

December 5, 3:30 – 4:30 PM ET

As things continue to come into focus after the recent historic election, there is much to be learned about how things will play out over the next two months and the next four years. Please join NARC to discuss the results and what they mean for regions and local governments.

How Housing Matters Webcast

December 13, 2016

Hosted by the National Housing Conference in partnership with the Urban Institute, HUD's office of Policy Development & Research, and the Terwilliger Center for Housing at the Urban Land Institute, How Housing Matters brings together practitioners from different sectors to explore ways in which housing is a platform for achieving positive outcomes in health, education, and economic opportunity.

Save the Date! 2017 National Conference of Regions

February 12-15 – Washington Court Hotel, 525 New Jersey Ave NW 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 soon. Capitol Hill Day is the final day of the conference, February 15, 2017.

CONTACT US

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