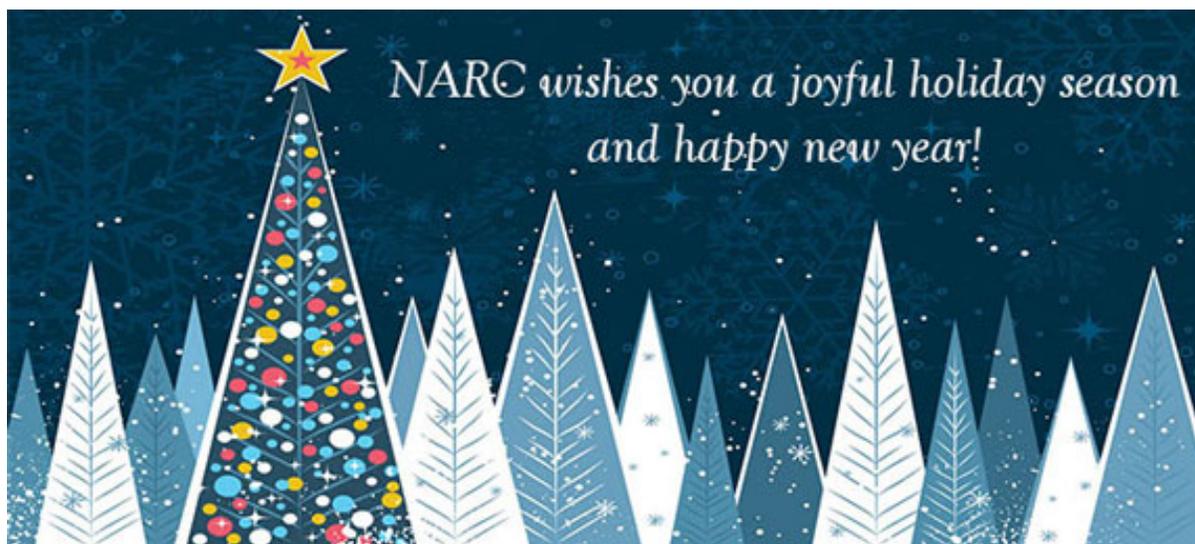




NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

eREGIONS



## NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

*Congress is on recess. Senate returns January 11; House returns January 5.*

### **Appropriations Bill Signed and Delivered**

Before leaving town for the holidays, Congress passed the *2016 Consolidated Appropriations Act* to keep the government open through the end of the fiscal year, September 30, 2016. The legislation includes funding for virtually the entire federal government, totaling approximately \$1.15 trillion. The bill avoided the automatic spending cuts set back in 2013 (known as sequestration) in addition to some last minute controversial amendments that would have sunk the agreement and threatened federal government shutdown. The bill includes funding for key local government programs, mostly at current spending levels.

In a separate last minute action, lawmakers were able to agree on a bill extending tax incentives that include several local priorities. Although Congress avoided some of the more controversial amendments, Republican lawmakers made it clear that they would continue to fight administration environmental and energy rules, including the Waters of the United States wetlands pollution rule as part of the FY 2017 appropriations effort.

Click [HERE](#) for a more detailed breakdown of the spending package.

## OTHER NEWS

**National Aging and Disability Transportation Center**

**Easter Seals**, the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (**n4a**), and the Federal Transit

Administration launched the National Aging and Disability Transportation Center (NADTC), a national technical assistance transportation center created to serve seniors, people with disabilities, caregivers, and communities throughout the U.S. NADTC will: support the delivery of effective specialized transportation services that maximize federal investments; promote the availability and accessibility of transportation options; provide technical assistance, information, and referral; develop and field training; implement an interactive communication and outreach strategy; and offer grant funding to support communities in assessing their needs and developing innovative transportation solutions. To ensure NADTC's work responds to the needs of their target audiences, they will offer opportunities to provide feedback and guidance.

### **Urban Institute Research: Homeless on the Homefront**

With many soldiers returning from wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in the late 2000s, the risk of homelessness significantly increased for veterans. Looking to avoid the difficulties that plagued so many Vietnam veterans, Congress, in 2009, authorized a veterans' homelessness prevention and intervention demonstration program in support of President Barack Obama's goal of ending veterans' homelessness by 2016. The U.S. departments of Housing and Urban Development, Veterans Affairs, and Labor collaborated to implement the Veterans Homelessness Prevention Demonstration (VHPD), a program that aimed to prevent homelessness among veterans. The Urban Institute evaluated VHPD and found **promising outcomes**.

NARC will be providing more information on this topic at the upcoming **2016 National Conference of Regions** in February.

## **MEMBER REQUESTS**

*Email responses to [anna@narc.org](mailto:anna@narc.org).*

### **NARC & EPA: Local Government Advisory Committee**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC), a formal advisory committee composed of elected and appointed local officials, is seeking applications for new members. The committee is involved in a wide range of environmental issues impacting local governments. If you are interested in representing NARC on the committee, please contact [anna@narc.org](mailto:anna@narc.org) for more information and assistance in the application process.

"The Local Government Advisory Committee is a formal advisory committee chartered under the *Federal Advisory Committee Act* and has been in existence since 1993. The Committee is composed primarily of elected and appointed local officials, along with several state representatives, environmental interest groups, and labor interests from across the country. LGAC provides advice and recommendations that assist the EPA in developing a stronger partnership with local governments through building state and local capacity to deliver environmental services and programs. The ultimate goal of LGAC is to provide the citizens of the United States with more efficient and effective environmental protection at the community, state and federal level."

### **PAG: Dispose-A-Med Program**

Pima Association of Governments (PAG) in Tucson, Arizona is working with local stakeholders to coordinate a region-wide Dispose-A-Med program. Has your COG/MPO successfully coordinated a similar effort? If so, please share information, web links, plans, documents, or best practices your organization employed to promote, implement, and quantify your efforts for the the program. Additionally, PAG is interested in how your organization addressed poison control, water quality, and partnerships with stakeholders.

## **FEATURED JOBS**

*[View full list of jobs!](#)*

### **Planner III**

West Florida Regional Planning Council, Pensacola, FL

## **Public Involvement Coordinator III**

West Florida Regional Planning Council, Pensacola, FL

## **Application Developer**

Pima Association of Governments, Tucson, AZ

## **FUNDING**

*[View full list of grants!](#)*

### **Promise Zones Initiative: Third Round Selection Process**

Applications Due: February 23, 5:00 PM ET

In his 2013 State of the Union address, President Obama announced the establishment of the Promise Zones initiative to partner with high-poverty communities across the country to create jobs, increase economic security, expand educational opportunities, increase access to quality, affordable housing, and improve public safety. Through this notice, HUD provides notice on the selection process, criteria, and application submission for the third round of the Promise Zone initiative. Interested eligible organizations are invited to submit applications for a Promise Zone designation. Questions or comments regarding the application process should be directed by email to [Promisезones@hud.gov](mailto:Promisезones@hud.gov).

## **EVENTS**

*[View full list of events!](#)*

### **Census: Recent and Upcoming Indicator Improvements Webinar**

January 27, 2016, 1:00 PM ET

The Census Bureau works hard to keep their data products relevant by enhancing and updating existing surveys and reports. In this webinar, Census will look back at the improvements made in 2015 and forward to those in the future.

### **NARC WEBINAR! Scenario Planning**

January 4, 2016, 2:00 - 3:30 PM ET *Please note the new time!*

Join PlaceMatters and NARC to learn about recent research on the use of scenario planning tools to support transportation and land use planning in regions and recommendations to make them more readily available and valuable to regions planning for their future.

### **Countermeasure Strategies for Pedestrian Safety: Roundabouts**

January 6, 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET

The next installment of the U.S. Federal Highway Administration's Countermeasure Strategies for Pedestrian Safety Webinar Series will provide detailed information on using roundabouts to improve safety for pedestrians. Roundabouts provide an alternative design to traditional intersections that can improve safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists. By using a modern roundabout design to lower vehicle speeds through an intersection, safety and efficiency can be improved. This presentation will provide an in-depth look at roundabout design and discuss ways that roundabouts can be used to improve safety for pedestrians. Following the presentation, participants will be able to submit questions during a discussion period.

### **Understanding Public Financial Management: How Is Your Money Spent?**

Course starts January 25

This FREE four-week course put out by SOAS University of London's Centre for Financial and Management Studies (**CeFIMS**) will be available on the **FutureLearn** platform starting January 25. The course takes a fresh look at public financial management in the wake of such major public finance issues as Greece's handling of its public debt and the City of Detroit's bankruptcy in 2013.



*Register Today!*

2016 NATIONAL  
CONFERENCE OF REGIONS

FEBRUARY 7-9\*  
WASHINGTON, DC

**REGISTER TODAY! 2016 National Conference of Regions**

February 7-9, 2016\* – 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. *\*Note: Capitol Hill Day is February 10. Please make room in your travel plans to meet with your representatives.*

**CONTACT US**

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