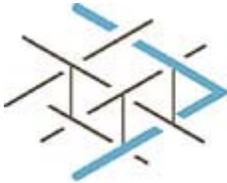


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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XIII, No. 49, December 23, 2013

eRegions

***We wish you a Happy Holiday
and a Wonderful New Year!***

***Daphne, Nathan, Marcy, Erich, Shannon, Lindsey, Mia
Bridget, Anna, Autumn, Taylor and Fred***



EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

[PROGRAM UPDATE](#) [POLICY UPDATE](#)

[REGIONS360](#) [MEMBER REQUESTS](#)

[GRANT OPPORTUNITIES](#) [UPCOMING EVENTS](#)

On behalf of your NARC staff, we wish you a happy holiday and a wonderful new year! Please be safe. We'll see you all again in 2014.

Cheers,
Fred

NARCLEADERSHIP

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Supervisor,
Fairfax County, VA

Chair Jim Hassinger,

Executive Directors
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Executive Director,
Southwestern
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Autumn Campbell

Director of Community

Programs

Mia Colson

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Office Manager

Bridget Gribbin

Intern

Taylor Markwith

Program Associate

Lindsey Riley



PROGRAMUPDATE

Free Regional Solar Workshop: Detroit, MI

January 23, 2014, 8:30-12:30 PM EST

Local governments interested in learning about how to make their community solar ready in Southeast Michigan are invited to a free workshop sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy's SunShot Solar Outreach Partnership, City of Lathrup Village, Southeast Michigan Regional Energy Office and NARC. The workshop will provide actionable information on creating local –level solar policies and permitting processes. Areas of focus include: (1) The benefits and barriers of solar development in your region; (2) Revising planning and zoning codes and ordinances; and (3) Streamlining the permitting processes to enable solar development in your community. For more information and to register for the event, click [HERE](#).

POLICYUPDATE

Transit Tax Benefit: Before adjourning for the year, the Senate may act to quickly pass a bill introduced by Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY) that would allow mass transit users to continue to fund the cost of riding trains and buses with pre-tax dollars, up to \$245 per month. Without Congressional action, the benefit would be cut to \$130 starting the first of the year. A similar benefit for parking, which is also \$245 per month, would not change because it's permanently set at that level. Since the House did not act on the bill introduced by Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) before it left, they will need make the benefit retroactive when session returns in 2014. Rep. Michael Grimm (R-NY) is supportive of a retroactive application when the House returns, and has also proposed a measure that would permanently set the benefit for transit and parking at \$220 per month. This would be a slight decrease for both transit and parking benefits relative to existing law, but would provide much greater stability for the transit benefit which otherwise needs to be extended each year to maintain its higher benefit level.

Deputy of
Communications
Anna Rosenbaum
Communications
Associate
Erich W. Zimmermann
Director of Transportation
Programs

To access past issues
of *eRegions*, **visit our**
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Military and Smart Growth: An interesting component of National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) is the requirement that the military consider a number of factors – including using infill development and expanding transit options – in the development and siting of military assets. It should also be noted, however, that the U.S. Department of Defense was moving heavily in this direction on its own, encouraging these types of elements be considered in the master planning document it finalized last year. You can read more about the provision in the NDAA **HERE.**

Window on Workforce: NARC is working closely with multiple workforce development stakeholders to conduct a series of meetings in the Senate to shore up support for WIA consideration early in the year. Both the House and Senate have indicated a desire to reauthorize critical programs that have been at the mercy of annual appropriations for over a decade. Additionally, NARC is working with other local government partners to advocate upholding local control and avoid major changes to the governance structure of workforce programs. Senate Majority Leader Reid has added WIA to the queue for floor consideration in January or February, but WIA will have to reach the 60-vote threshold to make it on the Chamber's legislative schedule. **Please contact your Senators and encourage them to support floor consideration next year.** NARC will also feature a panel on federal Workforce Development efforts at the **2014 National Conference of Regions** in February, where members will hear from congressional and agency representatives on workforce efforts. Click **HERE** to access NARC's webpage on WIA.

Deferred Farm Bill: There will be no 2013 Farm Bill, but conferees continue to convince those eager for long-term reauthorization that they are "close" to a compromise. So close, in fact, that the Senate chose not to follow in House footsteps to pass a one-month extension, anticipating passage in early January. NARC will follow these developments and weigh-in on rural development priorities once a conference packaged is released. Click **HERE** to access NARC's webpage on the Farm Bill.

REGIONS360

EPA and MWCOG Release Climate Change Resiliency Report for Local Governments: As part of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) is seeking 2010 *Region Forward* visioning

strategy, the planning agency requested assistance from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to improve local capacity to respond and adapt to climate change. The resulting guidebook outlines smart growth approaches aimed at reducing climate change-related risks in the land use, transportation, water, and buildings sectors. While the guidebook was developed for DC-area local governments, the recommendations and strategies are relevant to other regions. The full report is available [HERE](#).

MEMBERREQUESTS

Request for Proposal Executive Search Firm: Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments is seeking an Executive **Search Firm** to conduct a search for the position of Director of Transportation Planning. The salary range for this Director position is \$124,654-\$192,922, depending on experience and qualifications. The Executive Search Firm will report to the COG Executive Director as Contracting Officer, who will administer this contract, and to a Search Committee comprised of COG senior staff, representatives of the Transportation Planning Board (TPB), and other partners as may be deemed necessary. The Executive Search Firm must be able to commit to working within the time frame stipulated herein, with the position **filled** within three to four months of the contract award.

GRANTOPPORTUNITIES

National Endowment for the Arts

Deadline: January 13, 2014

The NEA Our Town Program aims to support creative placemaking projects that contribute toward 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. More information is available [HERE](#).

Institute Without Borders

Deadline for Expression of Interest: January 13, 2014

The Institute without Boundaries (IwB) is seeking curriculum partners for Connecting Divided Places, a project that investigates social, economic,

environmental and cultural divisions in cities. IWB seeks applications from municipalities, not-for-profit organizations, and companies interested in working to address the problems dividing cities and regions. IWB is looking for organizations interested in collaborating on design solutions that make for more balanced, healthier and resilient city-regions of the future. Read more [HERE](#).

U.S. Forest Service

Deadline: January 15, 2014

Funding is available to local governments through the Community Forest Program to provide financial assistance to establish community forests that provide continuing and accessible community benefits. Community forests provide many benefits such as protection of habitat, water quality, and other environmental benefits, and they can provide economic benefits through timber resources. Community Forests have also long been sites for environmental and cultural education. More information is available [HERE](#).

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Deadline: January 15, 2014

As part of the Diesel Emission Reduction Program (DERA), the 2013 Construction Equipment Funding Opportunity will provide rebate incentives to selected eligible applicants to either retrofit or to replace their nonroad construction equipment engines. Applicants may submit only one application for up to five pieces of equipment and up to \$120,000 in rebate funds. Applications may be downloaded from the website. Completed applications and required documentation should be sent by email. More information is available [HERE](#).

Community Forest Program Grant

Deadline: January 15, 2014

The U.S. Forest Service's Community Forest Program (CFP) protects forests that are important for people and the places they call home. CFP provides funding to local governments, tribal governments and nonprofits to establish community forests that provide continuing and accessible community benefits. Click [HERE](#) for more information about available funding.

Health Resources Services Administration – Rural Health Network Development Planning Program

Deadline: January 16, 2014

Funding is available to develop and promote the planning and

development of rural healthcare networks aimed at achieving efficiencies; expanding access to, coordinating, and improving the quality of essential services; and strengthening the rural health care system as a whole. This program brings together key parts of a rural health care delivery system, particularly those entities that may not have collaborated in the past under a formal relationship, to work together to establish and improve local capacity and coordination of care. This grant program supports one year of planning with the primary goal in helping networks create a foundation and focus efforts to address important regional or local community health needs. More information about this opportunity is available [HERE](#).

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Deadline: January 22, 2014

EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) has announced FY 2014 EPA funding for Brownfields Job Training Grants, Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund Grants, Brownfields Assessment Grants, Brownfields Multi-Purpose Grants, Brownfields Cleanup Grants, State Assistance Grant, Hazardous Waste Management Grant Program for Tribes, Tribal Solid Waste Management Assistance Project. More information is available [HERE](#) and the National Association of Local Government Environmental Professionals (NALGEP) will host a webinar on December 4th to discuss this opportunity. Sign up for the webinar [HERE](#).

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Deadline: January 23, 2014

As part of its Science to Achieve Results (STAR) program, the U.S. EPA is seeking applications proposing research to improve understanding of the effects of climate change on indoor air quality and the resulting health effects. EPA is interested in supporting research that will explore the anticipated effects of climate change on indoor air quality directly through a variety of mechanisms, and indirectly through adaptations in building use and design. More information is available [HERE](#).

U.S. Department of the Interior – Bureau of Reclamation

Deadline: January 23, 2014

Funding is available through the Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART program to support new Water and Energy Efficiency Grant projects. Proposals are sought from states, Indian tribes, irrigation districts, water districts and other organizations with water or power delivery authority to partner with Reclamation on projects that increase water conservation or

result in other improvements that address water supply sustainability in the West. More information is available [HERE](#).

U.S. Department of Labor – Employment Training Administration

Deadline: January 27, 2014

The Employment and Training Administration (ETA), has announced \$100 million in grant funds for the Youth CareerConnect grant program. The program is designed to provide high school students with education and training that combines rigorous academic and technical curricula focused on specific in-demand occupations and industries for which employers are using H-1B visas to hire foreign workers as well as the related activities necessary to support such training to increase participants' employability in H-1B in-demand industries and occupations. More information is available [HERE](#).

National Science Foundation (NSF) - Cyber-Physical Systems

Deadline: January 29, 2014

The National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have a shared interest in advancing basic and applied research in Cyber Physical Systems (CPS), which are systems in which physical processes are tightly intertwined with networked computing. For transportation, CPS will provide the foundation necessary for a safe, efficient highway transportation system connecting vehicles, infrastructure, people, and goods in a vibrant, competitive economy. More information is available [HERE](#).

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Deadline: January 30, 2014

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced the availability of \$181 million to develop commercial-scale biorefineries or retrofit existing facilities with appropriate technology to develop advanced biofuels. Funding is available through the Biorefinery Assistance Program provides loan guarantees to viable commercial-scale facilities to develop new and emerging technologies for advanced biofuels. The announcement is available [HERE](#), more information about the program is available [HERE](#) and the full text of the Federal Register notice is available [HERE](#).

Health Impact Project

Funding Announced February 2014

The Health Impact Project, a collaboration of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts, is planning to launch a call

for proposals for funding in February 2014. Grants will support health impact assessment (HIA) demonstration projects as well as development of HIA programs to integrate health in decision-making. More information on this opportunity is available [HERE](#).

U.S. Department of Housing

Deadline: February 3, 2014

Funding is available for FY 2013 and FY 2014 Continuum of Care Program Competition (CoC) to promote a community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness; to provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, States, and local governments to quickly re-house the homeless while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused by homelessness; to promote access to and effective utilization of mainstream programs by the homeless; and to optimize self-sufficiency among those experiencing homelessness. Full text of the notice of funding availability (NOFA) is available [HERE](#).

National Science Foundation - Cyber-Enabled Sustainability Science and Engineering

Deadline: February 4, 2014

The Cyber-Enabled Sustainability Science and Engineering (CyberSEES) program aims to advance interdisciplinary research in which the science and engineering of sustainability are enabled by new advances in computing, and where computational innovation is grounded in the context of sustainability problems. More information is available [HERE](#).

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Deadline: February 5, 2014

The Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program seeks to develop nation-wide-community stewardship of local natural resources, preserving resources for future generations and enhancing habitat for local wildlife. Projects seek to address water quality issues in priority watersheds, such as erosion due to unstable streambanks, pollution from stormwater runoff, and degraded shorelines caused by development. More information is available [HERE](#).

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Deadline: February 18, 2014

The Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving (CPS) Cooperative Agreement Program provides funding for eligible applicants for projects that address local environmental and public health issues

within an affected community. The CPS Program is designed to help communities understand and address exposure to multiple environmental harms and risks. More information about this opportunity is available [HERE](#).

Energy for Sustainability

Deadline: February 20, 2014

This program supports fundamental research and education that will enable innovative processes for the sustainable production of electricity and transportation fuels. Processes for sustainable energy production must be environmentally benign, reduce greenhouse gas production, and utilize renewable resources. Current interest areas in sustainable energy technologies are: Biomass Conversion, Biofuels & Bioenergy, Photovoltaic Solar Energy, Wind Energy, and Advanced Batteries for Transportation. Learn more about this program [HERE](#).

U.S. Department of Agriculture – Value-Added Producer Grant Program

Deadline: February 24, 2014

The USDA announced \$10.5 million in carry-over funding from 2013 to help U.S. agricultural producers enter into value-added activities. Awards may be made for either economic planning or working capital activities related to the processing and/or marketing of valued- added agricultural products. More information is available [HERE](#).

U.S. Department of Energy

Deadline: Concept Papers due January 13, 2014; Final applications due March 13, 2014

As part of a new \$19 million investment in solar energy, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced funding available under the SunShot Incubator 9 program. This program will focus on early-stage support for small companies, encouraging private-sector investment and seeking app and web developers from both inside and outside of the energy industry to zero in on reducing soft costs of solar adoption. More information is available [HERE](#).

U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration

*Deadlines: March 14, 2014 for funding cycle 3 of FY 2014;
June 13, 2014 for funding cycle 4 of FY 2014*

EDA is soliciting applications from applicants in rural and urban areas to provide investments that support construction, non-construction,

technical assistance, and revolving loan fund projects under EDA's Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance programs. Grants and cooperative agreements made under these programs are designed to leverage existing regional assets and support the implementation of economic development strategies that advance new ideas and creative approaches to advance economic prosperity in distressed communities. EDA provides competitive, merit-based investments that support economic development, foster job creation, and attract private investment in economically distressed areas of the United States. The full announcement is available [HERE](#).

National Science Foundation - Environmental Sustainability

Deadline: March 20, 2014

The Environmental Sustainability program supports engineering research that seeks to balance society's need to provide ecological protection and maintain stable economic conditions. Research in Environmental Sustainability typically considers long time horizons and may incorporate contributions from the social sciences and ethics. There are four principal general research areas which are supported: Industrial Ecology, Green Engineering, Ecological Engineering, Earth Systems Engineering. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

Climate Solutions University Accepting Applications

Application Deadline: Rolling

The Model Forest Policy Program is offering a special funding opportunity for qualifying U.S. urban and rural communities working together addressing ecosystem services. Urban decision makers need to plan for climate impacts that result from land changes beyond their jurisdictional boundaries. To find out more about the Climate Solutions University, click [HERE](#).

UPCOMINGEVENTS

WEBINAR: Sound operations and maintenance (O&M) and Green: Best Practices for Green Infrastructure Operations and Maintenance

January 7, 2014, 1:00-2:30 PM EST

This webcast will provide a general overview of best practices for creating a green infrastructure operations and maintenance plan. Register [HERE](#).

Free Regional Solar Workshop: Detroit, MI

January 23, 2014, 8:30-12:30 PM EST

Local governments interested in learning about how to make their community solar ready in Southeast Michigan are invited to a free workshop sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy's SunShot Solar Outreach Partnership, City of Lathrup Village, Southeast Michigan Regional Energy Office and NARC. The workshop will provide actionable information on creating local –level solar policies and permitting processes. Areas of focus include: (1) The benefits and barriers of solar development in your region; (2) Revising planning and zoning codes and ordinances; and (3) Streamlining the permitting processes to enable solar development in your community. For more information and to register for the event, click [HERE](#).

New Partners for Smart Growth Conference

February 13-15, 2014, Denver, CO

The New Partners for Smart Growth Conference fosters discussion on building safe, healthy, equitable and prosperous communities. The conference will feature a session that explores code changes that communities can make to better prepare themselves for climate change in addition to providing other benefits, called "Are Your Building and Land Use Codes Ready for the Changing Climate?" Register [HERE](#).

NARC's 2014 National Conference of Regions

February 9-11, 2014, Washington, DC

The National Conference of Regions is the forum that NARC uses to determine key policy issues and a legislative agenda on topics of relevance and importance to executive directors and local elected officials representing regional organizations and boards. Registration, hotel information and a draft agenda are available on the conference website [HERE](#).

NARC's 48th Annual Conference and Exhibition

June 6-11, 2014, Louisville, KY

The Annual Conference and Exhibition is the largest national event focused on promoting effective regional cooperation and solutions through interaction and education. Held annually in June, NARC's Annual Conference is the premier place to learn how to engage in effective regional collaboration. Additional information will be available in early 2014.

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