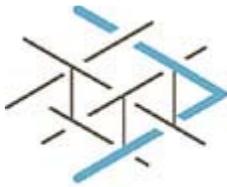


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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XIII, No. 50, December 30, 2013

eRegions

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

Have a wonderful new year! Please be safe, and we'll see you all again in 2014.

Cheers,
Fred

NARC LEADERSHIP

President

Hon. Penny Gross
Supervisor,
Fairfax County, VA

Chair Jim Hassinger,

Executive Directors
Council
Executive Director,
Southwestern
Pennsylvania Commission

[POLICY UPDATE](#) [MEMBER REQUESTS](#)
[GRANT OPPORTUNITIES](#) [UPCOMING EVENTS](#)

A graphic for the 2014 National Conference of Regions. It features a 3D arrangement of blue and red cubes, with a green globe on top of one of the blue cubes. To the right of the cubes, the text reads: "2014 NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF REGIONS", "FEBRUARY 9-11, 2014", "WASHINGTON, DC", and "REGISTER TODAY!". At the bottom left of the graphic is the NARC logo and the text "NARC Building Regional Communities".

2014 NATIONAL
CONFERENCE OF REGIONS

FEBRUARY 9-11, 2014
WASHINGTON, DC

REGISTER TODAY!

NARC
Building Regional Communities

We wish you a wonderful 2014!

POLICY UPDATE

Congress is out of session. The Senate will return on January 6 and the House on January 7.

Work Continues on Budget Efforts: Following the President's signing of a two year budget agreement that sets top line spending for FY14 and FY15 and alleviates sequester, appropriators' staff are now preparing for the consideration of a FY14 omnibus bill, which the House will take up first. The bill will fund the government at over \$1 trillion through September 2014. It is expected that the FY14 appropriations allocations and spending will be settled by the week's end. If agreement

NARCSTAFF

Fred Abousleman

Executive Director

Shannon Baxevanis

Deputy Director

Autumn Campbell

Director of Community

Programs

Mia Colson

Program Analyst

Nathan Devers

Intern

Marcy Fritter

Office Manager

Bridget Gribbin

Intern

Taylor Markwith

Program Associate

Lindsey Riley

Deputy of

Communications

Anna Rosenbaum

Communications

Associate

Erich W. Zimmermann

Director of Transportation

Programs

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cannot be reached on one or more of the 12 annual appropriations measures, the affected agencies will likely be funded by a continuing resolution (CR) that could be included in the omnibus. The current CR expires January 15. Senate Appropriations Chairman Mukilski said she is planning for the Senate's consideration around January 13.

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

New! Georgetown University: In-Kind Support

Deadline: January 3, 2014

The Georgetown Climate Center (GCC) is accepting applications for in-kind legal and policy support for state and local adaptation projects. GCC provides assistance to state and local communities that are preparing for and responding to the impacts of climate change. Examples of previous GCC projects include model codes, analyses of legal authority, toolkits, and more. More information available [HERE](#).

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](#).

New! National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Deadline: January 31, 2014

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) has announced funding for the Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Competitive Grant Program, which will support projects that reduce communities' vulnerability to the growing risks from coastal storms, sea level rise, flooding, erosion, and associated threats through strengthening natural ecosystems that also benefit fish and wildlife. The program will award more than \$100 million in grants to states officially declared a natural disaster as a result of Hurricane Sandy. Details 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](#).

New! WEBINAR: Kick-starting Your Energy Management Program

January 7, 2014, 3:00-4:00 PM EST

Join this U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) webinar to hear Better Buildings Challenge Partners Shorenstein and Allegheny College as they describe solutions for time, money, and expertise barriers when developing a robust energy management program. Register [HERE](#).

New! WEBINAR: Sunshot Incubator Virtual Showcase

January 7, 2014, 4:00-5:00 PM EST

Register [HERE](#) to learn about DOE SunShot Incubator projects, products, and future development needs.

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: “Are Your Building and Land Use Codes Ready for the Changing Climate?”

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. 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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