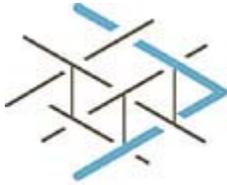


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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XIII, No. 48, December 16, 2013

eRegions

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

The Senate is set to pass the budget compromise this week and give all of us an early holiday present. Majority Leader Reid believes he has the votes to pass the budget and limit debate. Senate Republicans are indicating their support to pass the bill by Thursday. According to the Congressional Budget Office, "if appropriations for 2014 and 2015 equaled the revised limits, discretionary outlays would be roughly \$62 billion higher over the 2014-2023 period than if appropriations for those years equaled the limits in current law. (Nearly \$48 billion of the anticipated

POLICY UPDATE

REGIONS360 MEMBER REQUESTS

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES UPCOMING EVENTS

2014 NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF REGIONS

FEBRUARY 9-11, 2014
WASHINGTON, DC

REGISTER TODAY!

NARC
Building Regional Communities

The graphic for the 2014 National Conference of Regions features a central image of a globe surrounded by blue and red 3D cubes. To the right, the text "2014 NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF REGIONS" is displayed in a serif font. Below this, the dates "FEBRUARY 9-11, 2014" and location "WASHINGTON, DC" are listed. A prominent red call to action "REGISTER TODAY!" is positioned at the bottom right. The NARC logo, consisting of a stylized geometric design and the text "NARC Building Regional Communities", is located at the bottom left of the graphic.

POLICY UPDATE

Budget Compromise Introduced: After extended negotiations, House Budget Chairman Paul Ryan (R-WI) and Senate Budget Chairman Patty Murray (D-WA) last week released a joint budget agreement that sets top-line numbers for fiscal years (FY) 2014 and 2015. This paves the way for getting an omnibus appropriations measure in place for the rest of FY14 and perhaps a return to more regular order for FY15. The House approved the compromise budget plan on a 332-94 vote. The bill now goes to the Senate, which is expected to approve it this week.

NARC Meeting with Senate Offices on WIA Reauthorization: NARC and workforce development industry stakeholders are meeting this week with Senate staff to shore up support for Workforce Investment Act (WIA) reauthorization. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid filed a motion to proceed on a compromise reauthorization bill, which passed the

increase in discretionary outlays would occur in 2014 and 2015.)” The budget compromise does not repeal the sequester, but sets funding at a higher level than previously authorized. For FY2014, discretionary spending is set at \$1.012 trillion, less than originally proposed by the Senate which assumed the repeal of sequestration, but an increase over the FY2014 House proposed budget of \$967 billion.

Best,
Fred

NARCLEADERSHIP

President

Hon. Penny Gross
Supervisor,
Fairfax County, VA

Chair Jim Hassinger,

Executive Directors
Council
Executive Director,
Southwestern
Pennsylvania Commission

NARCSTAFF

Fred Abousleman

Executive Director

Shannon Baxevanis

Deputy Director

Autumn Campbell

Director of Community

Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee earlier this year. NARC and partners are encouraging Senators to support a floor vote on the measure. Please contact your Senators and ask them to support a floor vote for Workforce Development legislation. More information on WIA is [HERE](#).

No Movement on Farm Bill in 2013: The House last week voted for a short-term extension in the Farm Bill, but the Senate will take no action on an extension this year. Senate Leadership has expressed a desire to continue conference negotiations with the expectation of passing a five-year reauthorization compromise bill in early January.

Jay Williams to be Considered by Senate Committee for EDA Post:

Tomorrow, December 17th, the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee will consider former Youngstown, OH Mayor Jay Williams to head of up the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA). President Obama nominated Williams the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development in September. Pending Committee approval, the full Senate would need to approve the nomination.

REGIONS360

Merrimack Valley Priority Growth Strategy: The Transportation Planning Capacity Building (TBCP) Program – jointly administered by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) – recently released an Innovative Project Feature about the Merrimack Valley Priority Growth Strategy (PGS). Developed by the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission, the PGS represents the region's first Master Plan in over 30 years. One aspect of the PGS that TBCP highlights is the “bottom up” approach used to develop the plan. City and town planners and economic development directors were interviewed, and all local plans and available studies were reviewed and considered as the PGS was developed. More on the PGS and the TBCP is available [HERE](#).

MEMBERREQUESTS

Membership Dues Structure: The Ohio Association of Regional Councils (OARC) is reviewing its current membership dues structure, and is looking for examples of bylaws and dues for states that have

Programs

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Programs

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regional council associations.

Members ask for your thoughtful reply. Please forward any feedback to Anna Rosenbaum, anna@narc.org, including which member assistance request to which you are responding.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

U.S. Department of the Treasury – Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI)

Deadline: December 23

Funding is available for the CDFI Program, which aims to use federal resources to invest in CDFIs and to build their capacity to serve low-income people and communities that lack access to affordable financial products and services. Through the CDFI program, the CDFI Fund provides two types of monetary awards to CDFIs - Financial Assistance awards and Technical Assistance awards. More information on this opportunity is available [HERE](#), and more information on the CDFI program is available [HERE](#). Funding for the Native American CDFI program is also available. More information can be found [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](#).

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: Environmental Protection Agency

December 17, 1:00 PM EST

The U.S. EPA's Green Power Partnership (GPP) will host a webinar to address effectively engaging allies across the enterprise. Particularly for on-site and utility-scale green power opportunities, sustainability and energy staff find that they need to coordinate or collaborate with multiple functions within their organization. Building the support of an internal network can make all the difference when it comes to making a purchase or installing green power on-site. The webinar will discuss how to build this network, how to leverage other stakeholders' key issues and address their challenges, and who needs to be involved. Register [HERE](#).

WEBINAR: EPA Announces Webinar Series for State and Local Governments

December 18, 1:00-2:30 PM EST

Second installment of the series: *Using Effective Communication to Showcase Program Successes*. The EPA's State and Local Climate and Energy Program announced a series of webcasts aimed at helping local governments as they explore and plan climate change and clean energy efforts. These regular webcasts highlight EPA resources available to local governments and present examples of successful climate and

energy programs and policies implemented locally. More information on this series and links to register are available [HERE](#).

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 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. This year, 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](#).

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](#).

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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