

June 5, 2015



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THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

- **House Approves Fiscal Year 2016 Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations Bill; No Amendments Offered to Cut EDA Funding**
- **NADO Research Foundation Releases New Issue Brief Highlighting the Value of Rural-Urban Connections**
- **NADO Research Foundation and RUPRI Release Tool to Calculate Local Government Preparedness for Disasters**
- **NADO Research Foundation Releases First Installment of Regional Approaches to Resilience: An Online Tour of Resilience Work Across the Country**
- **Rooting Opportunity Economic Development Conference Held in Washington, DC; NADO Members Featured**
- **Innovation Award Application Deadline Extended to June 19**

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

House Approves Fiscal Year 2016 Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations Bill; No Amendments Offered to Cut EDA Funding

This week, the House approved by a vote of 242 to 183 the fiscal year (FY) 2016 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS) Appropriations bill. The bill funds the U.S. Economic

Development Administration at \$250 million, level with the FY2015 appropriation. The bill includes level funding for EDA's economic development assistance programs at \$213 million. Click [here](#) for a breakdown of funding allocated for planning grants, economic adjustment assistance, public works, and other economic development assistance programs.

The House bill includes \$15 million for the administration's new [POWER+ Plan](#) to assist communities across the country impacted by contractions in the coal industry and power sector. Language is included directing EDA to use funds provided to assist communities that have yet to develop economic development strategies and help communities that do have strategies in place to fund authorized economic development projects.

Unlike past years, no amendment was offered to the bill on the House floor targeting EDA for elimination. It is not clear when the Senate Appropriations Committee may begin consideration of their FY2016 CJS funding bill.

NADO NEWS AND NOTES

NADO Research Foundation Releases New Issue Brief Highlighting the Value of Rural-Urban Connections

Metropolitan and rural America are highly connected and interdependent. To succeed, metropolitan America needs a healthy and sustainable rural economy and culture, and in turn rural America needs vibrant, well-functioning cities and suburbs to thrive and flourish. Yet, the prevailing national narrative pits urban versus rural for investments and public resources, and official statistical definitions often create hard lines between urban and rural, and metropolitan and non-metropolitan.

A new [issue brief](#) from the NADO Research Foundation describes some ways in which regional development organizations and other regional entities are recognizing the importance of connecting rural regions and urban centers. "[Creating Opportunity and Prosperity Through Strengthening Rural-Urban Connections](#)" contains case studies on efforts underway across the country to support rural-urban connections in the areas of broadband development, disaster resilience, transportation, and food systems and includes case studies from NADO members [Central Florida Regional Planning Council](#) and the [Sacramento Area Council of Governments](#). Click [here](#) for more information and to download the issue brief. Questions? Please contact Brett Schwartz at bschwartz@nado.org.

NADO Research Foundation and RUPRI Release Tool to Calculate Local Government Preparedness for Disasters

The NADO Research Foundation and the [Rural Policy Research Institute](#) (RUPRI) have released a national spreadsheet tool to supplement their publication, "[Financial Planning for Disasters: A Workbook for Local Governments and Regions](#)." The workbook and the spreadsheet are designed to help local governments and regions understand their financial vulnerabilities to natural disasters, evaluate their financial capacity to cover the costs of those disasters, identify strategies to close the gap between financial vulnerability and capacity, and identify and address the spillover effects of neighboring local governments' financial vulnerabilities to disasters. The spreadsheet tool provides formulas to assist with some of the calculations in the workbook's module worksheets, making it easier to complete them on a computer.

The spreadsheet tool was developed through a technical assistance project for the [Northwest Georgia Regional Commission](#) and with support from the U.S. Economic Development Administration. Click [here](#) to download the workbook and the spreadsheet. Contact Matthew Fannin of RUPRI at mfannin@agcenter.lsu.edu with any questions.

NADO Research Foundation Releases First Installment of Regional Approaches to Resilience: An Online Tour of Resilience Work Across the Country

This week the [NADO Research Foundation](#) released the first installment of a new [case study series](#) on approaches to building resilience to natural disasters, climate change, and other economic shocks. The first story highlights the [South Florida Regional Planning Council's](#) efforts to fully integrate resilience into their CEDS. Over the coming weeks, this snapshot series will feature additional stories from regional development organizations across the country that are on the forefront of green infrastructure development, integrated planning efforts, resilient transportation investments, energy planning, and other areas of growing importance for regional resilience. If your organization has a success story to share, please contact Lexie Albe at lalbe@nado.org

Application Period Now Open for Innovation Challenge Workshop for Coal-Reliant Counties and Regions

Is your county or region experiencing economic challenges due to the contraction of the coal industry? Searching for tools and resources related to economic diversification, job creation, or workforce training? If so, consider applying to attend a workshop this fall that addresses all of these topics and more. The [National Association of Counties](#) and the [NADO Research Foundation](#), with support from the [U.S. Economic Development Administration](#), are pleased to announce the [second of three workshops](#) being hosted in 2015 to support counties and regions impacted by the contraction of the coal industry. The goal of each workshop is to help boost the innovative potential of coal-reliant counties and regions seeking to grow and diversify their economies. The first workshop was held in Pikeville, KY on April 22 – 24. Click [here](#) to view materials from that event.

Counties and regions are asked to form teams to apply to attend the next workshop in **Grand Junction, Colorado**, scheduled for **September 16 – 18**. Teams that submit winning applications will be selected to attend the three-day training and workshop – facilitated by expert practitioners – and receive pre- and post-event support from NACo and NADO staff. These workshops will be structured to guide counties and regions to design solutions tailored to their communities' needs and identify implementable projects. The application to attend the Grand Junction, Colorado workshop is now open and will remain open until **July 17 at 5:00 p.m. ET**. Please note that this program is not limited to coal-producing counties. Places that are home to coal-fired power plants, coal processing facilities, and transportation hubs are encouraged to apply.

Click [here](#) for more information and to apply online. Please direct any questions to NADO Research Foundation Program Manager Brett Schwartz at bschwartz@nado.org.



Innovation Award Application Deadline Extended to June 19

The deadline to apply for the [2015 NADO Innovation Awards](#) has been extended to **June 19** – don't miss the opportunity to apply! Each year, NADO presents [Innovation Awards](#) to NADO member organizations that demonstrate innovative approaches to regional economic and community development. [Last year](#) we awarded an impressive group of innovative regional projects and programs – apply today to join the ranks of these outstanding examples of regional community and economic development.

Don't miss the opportunity to:

- Gain national recognition for your local or regional project.
- Be recognized at a special roundtable reception, and network with other award winners during NADO's [Annual Training Conference](#) (ATC) in New Orleans, October 24 - 27, 2015.
- Have your photo taken with NADO President Terry Bobrowski during the ATC – a great addition to the press release winners receive for distribution to local media outlets.
- Potentially have your award-winning project highlighted in future NADO Research Foundation reports and case studies, or as examples in congressional testimony.

Eligibility:

- Only NADO members can apply for the award. If multiple organizations collaborated on a project, they may apply jointly for an award, but the lead applicant must be a NADO member.
- Only three projects per organization may be submitted.
- Projects must show substantial quantitative or qualitative results in your region. For a competitive application, applicants should address what makes your project innovative such as its use of creative funding mechanisms, efforts to create efficiencies or reduce costs, development of unique partnership models, ability to be replicated by other regional development organizations, and emphasis on building resilience and/or enhancing your region's quality of life.

Click [here](#) to complete the online application. The deadline to apply has been extended to **June 19**. Contact Sara James at sjames@nado.org or 202.624.5257 with questions.

Recording and Slides Available for NADO Webinar on Grant Opportunities Under the POWER Initiative

Recently the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) and Department of Labor (DOL) announced the availability of \$35.5 million in federal funding to assist communities impacted by the contractions in the coal industry and power sector. These funds are being made available as part of the [Partnership for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization \(POWER\) Initiative](#). EDA will lead this interagency initiative, which is a coordinated effort to use already appropriated funds to make a down payment on the [POWER+ Plan](#), a suite of proposals included in the president's fiscal year (FY) 2016 budget request to invest in coal communities, workers, and technology. The recently released [Federal Funding Opportunity](#) for the POWER Initiative outlines implementation, evaluation, and application guidance for the up to \$35.5 million in available funding from agencies including EDA, DOL's Employment and Training Administration (ETA), the Small Business Administration (SBA), and the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC).

On May 27, [EDA](#), the [National Association of Development Organizations](#), and the [National Association of Regional Councils](#) hosted a webinar to take a closer look at the competitive grant opportunities available through the POWER Initiative. Click [here](#) to view a recording of the webinar and [here](#) to view the presentation slides.

NADO Research Foundation and IEDC Host “Making Resilience the New Normal: A Convening of Local, Regional, and Federal Leaders” in Washington, DC

Across the country, local and regional agencies are finding new ways of building resilience through their day-to-day decisions. By applying a new lens to not only disaster recovery but also to planning, zoning, capital investment, lending, and other routine services, they are making their communities better able to withstand and bounce back from natural disasters and the impacts of climate change. On May 19 – 20, the [NADO Research Foundation](#) and the [International Economic Development Council](#) (IEDC) with support from the [U.S. Economic Development Administration](#) (EDA) brought federal, regional, and local leaders together for a discussion about how they can work together to achieve better resilience outcomes on the ground at [“Making Resilience the New Normal: A Convening of Local, Regional, and Federal Leaders.”](#) Representatives from RDOs and local governments—whose communities have all been impacted by natural disasters in the past five years—shared how their recovery experiences have changed their approaches to everyday decision-making and how they are finding creative ways to use federal resources to fortify their regions against future hazards and disruptions. Federal partners from over a dozen agencies highlighted recent efforts to support disaster and climate resilience through new and existing policies, programs, and investments.

Participants engaged in a “gallery walk” brainstorming exercise, rapid-fire presentations on their resilience initiatives, and breakout discussions on topics ranging from data to infrastructure to rural resilience. Additionally, they heard from thought leaders from the [White House Council on Environmental Quality](#), the [U.S. Economic Development Administration](#), [National Academy of Sciences Resilient America Roundtable](#), the [Royal Netherlands Embassy](#), and others and had the opportunity to work with many of these experts to tackle specific resilience-related challenges. By targeting communities on the forefront of resilience and fostering a broad interagency conversation that reached beyond the primary disaster recovery and preparedness players, this convening inspired new ideas for strengthening resilience and institutionalizing it as an integral objective of participants’ ongoing work. The NADO Research Foundation plans to synthesize the outcomes of the convening and share them broadly in the near future. Click [here](#) for event materials, including presentations and other resources.

FEDERAL NEWS AND NOTES

Upcoming Webinar on Participating in Manufacturing Day

On the first Friday in October each year, thousands of manufacturers and educational institutions across the country participate in [Manufacturing Day](#). By hosting open houses, public tours, career workshops, and other events, the industry aims to show the public what manufacturing looks like and inspire the next generation of workers.

A free webinar, [“Getting Involved in Manufacturing Day”](#), will be held on **June 8 from 2 – 3 p.m. ET**. The webinar is designed for companies that have not yet hosted events and will walk through the how and why of Manufacturing Day participation. Click [here](#) to register for the webinar. For more information, contact contact Zara Brunner at zara.brunner@nist.gov or Mark Schmit at mark.schmit@nist.gov.

FHWA Webinar: Implementing an e-STIP — What, Why and How?

This summer, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will release a set of resources on electronic Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (e-STIP). The resources—an interactive e-STIP prototype, guidebook, and white paper on using an e-STIP to support performance-based planning and programming—will help agencies consider implementing an e-STIP or adapting an existing e-STIP to support performance measurement.

FHWA is hosting a webinar series on the new e-STIP re-sources for State DOTs, MPOs and RTPOs, and transit agencies. The webinar will address:

- Benefits of an e-STIP

- Key issues associated with e-STIP implementation
- Demonstration of an e-STIP prototype

FHWA will offer the same webinar content at three different times:

- **June 16 from 1– 2:30 p.m. ET and 5– 6:30 p.m. ET**
- **June 17 from 3 – 4:30 p.m. ET**

To participate in the webinar during any of the above times, use the following link

<https://connectdot.connectsolutions.com/stip/> and dial the number 877.336.1839; passcode 668-4573. For questions, contact Lorrie Lau at lorrie.lau@dot.gov.

DOL Announces Innovation and Opportunity Network for WIOA Policy and Information Sharing

The U.S. Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration (ETA) has announced the launch of the [Innovation and Opportunity Network](#). The Innovation and Opportunity Network (ION) is an online learning and teaching community designed to help you connect with your peers and partners. ION encompasses multiple forms of training and technical assistance focused on the implementation actions and innovation called for under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Click [here](#) for more information about ION. Click [here](#) for WIOA policy and information updates.

HUD Announces 2015 CDBG-Disaster Recovery Regional Trainings

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced two CDBG-DR Regional Trainings. These regional trainings will include sessions on determining disaster recovery awards, an overview and purpose of the CDBG disaster recovery (CDBG-DR) grants, an introduction to the Disaster Recovery Grant Reporting (DRGR) system, assessing disaster recovery needs, action plan development, keys to effective grant administration, and environmental compliance. The trainings will also include panel presentations from grantees and HUD staff and roundtable discussions, so grantees have an opportunity to learn from each other. Below are the locations and registration links for the trainings.

- New Orleans, LA
July 13 – 15
[Register Here](#)
- Chicago, IL
August 18 – 20
[Register Here](#)

For more information please contact Jennifer Hopkins at 630.499.9221 or DRTraining@hopkinsconsultinggroup.com

USDA Seeks Grant Applications to Help Repair Housing in Rural Communities

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Rural Development (USDA-RD) is seeking applications for grants to make housing repairs for low, and very low – income rural residents. The grants are being provided through USDA Rural Development’s [Housing Preservation Grant program](#). Eligible applicants for Housing Preservation Grants include town or county governments, public agencies, federally recognized Indian Tribes, and non-profit and faith-based organizations. USDA does not provide funding directly to homeowners under this program. Click [here](#) for additional eligibility information and instructions on how to apply. Applications are due by **July 6**.

National Endowment for the Arts Announces 2016 Our Town Grant Program

2016 will be the sixth year of [Our Town](#), the [National Endowment for the Arts](#)' (NEA) primary creative placemaking program, providing funding that supports local efforts to enhance quality of life and opportunity for residents, increase creative activity, and create a distinct sense of place. Grants in 2016 will be available for projects in arts engagement, design and planning, and in knowledge building. This year, the application deadline for the Our Town program is earlier than in years past. The deadline to submit applications is **September 21, 2015**. Guidelines and application materials are available in the [Apply for a Grant](#) section of the NEA website. Click [here](#) for more details about the 2016 Our Town program and how to apply.

To help applicants prepare competitive proposals, the NEA is offering two webinars; **July 29** and **August 5, 2015**. Each session will be from **3:00 – 4:00 p.m. ET**. Program staff will lead a PowerPoint presentation with tips and tricks for crafting compelling applications, followed by questions and answers. Click [here](#) for more information.

NADO MEMBER NEWS

Rooting Opportunity Economic Development Conference Held in Washington, DC; NADO Members Featured

On **June 1 – 2**, 200 economic and community development practitioners and others attended the conference Rooting Opportunity: Doing Economic Development Differently in Washington, DC. The conference was attended by a diverse group of practitioners, including several members of NADO and allied organizations.

The conference included keynote presentations and breakout sessions intended to allow participants to explore a wide range of economic development partnerships that are advancing regional prosperity and self-reliance, the strength of key sectors, business success, and the livelihoods of low-income people, places and firms—all at the same time. The conference also uncovered common design elements and strategies embedded in these partnerships that participants can apply to work in their regions and sectors back home. The NADO Research Foundation was pleased to be a partner of the event.

One of the breakout sessions featured a presentation by Cheryal Hills, executive director of NADO member organization [Region 5 Development Commission](#), and Arlene Jones, executive director of [SPROUT MN](#), which talked about the region's partnership to develop a food hub where food is produced and consumed in a multicounty area, and to promote health outcomes through the Choose Health program.

For more information on the conference, visit <http://wealthworks.org/rooting-opportunity>. Speaker presentations will be posted to the website soon.

Build Skills and Support NADO through Lynda.com Membership

Executive directors and staff of regional development organizations often have complex jobs requiring diverse skill sets and expertise, as each staff person wears multiple hats. Empower your staff with access to training aimed at building their skills and confidence to tackle a variety of challenges through a membership with [lynda.com online training](#).

"I discovered lynda.com in 2010 and have been using it since. The course videos are well done and thoroughly comprehensive in their content. I have found lynda.com provides the most cost effective and flexible resources for the majority of my professional development needs. From the basic concepts to the advanced

applications, the site delivers. Working for a Regional Development Organization, the variety of skills needed varies greatly, and with lynda.com I can quickly identify and acquire whatever training I may need. From technical web-based options such as HTML5 and JavaScript to the general business requirements of Microsoft Office, I can rely on Lynda.com for the training I need.”

Kurt Barclay, North Central Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Organization

The [library of lynda.com courses](#) includes software technology common in regional development organization offices, such as Microsoft Office; Adobe InDesign, Illustrator, and Photoshop; and CAD. Other topics include website maintenance and development; using Google Groups to manage email groups and interaction; social media marketing; video production; and using GoToMeeting for remote meetings and webinars. Many of these topics have beginner, intermediate, and advanced training available. Lynda.com also provides tips on creative and business skills, such as management, communications, and productivity.



The site operates using a membership model; some content is free, and members pay a fee to view additional content. If you or your organization chooses to subscribe and access this valuable training, you are also supporting NADO. Simply make sure you are using a link to lynda.com from our newsletters or websites, and NADO will receive a benefit from your interest in professional development! [Try a 10-day free trial of lynda.com today!](#)

If you or other members of your staff are already using lynda.com, please contact NADO Associate Director Carrie Kissel, at ckissel@nado.org or 202.624.8829. NADO staff would love to learn more about how you are using the site.

ADDITIONAL NEWS AND NOTES

RDO, MPO, and RPO Responses Sought to Climate Change Adaptation Survey

The University of Vermont Transportation Resource Center (UVM TRC) would like to invite NAOD members and friends to participate in a brief [online survey](#) of regional planning and development organizations and in order to understand your agency's experiences with climate change and extreme weather events and the transportation sector. Through this survey, we hope to learn more about:

1. Which climate trends are potential threats to your region's transportation system?
2. If and how your agency is planning for climate change and extreme weather threats?
3. Any challenges that limit your agency's ability to engage in adaptation planning efforts?

The UVM TRC, a partner in the National Center for Sustainable Transportation (NCST) based at UC Davis, is conducting this survey to assess agencies' adaptation focus areas and the challenges related to adaptation planning. RSG, Inc. is conducting this survey on behalf of the UVM TRC.

To participate, visit the website: <https://rsgresearch.com/climateplanning>.

Also, please forward this link to others at your agency or at other transportation agencies who are engaged in the adaptation planning process. Please contact Jonathan Dowds at jdowds@uvm.edu or 802.656.1433 with any questions.

New Mobility West Providing Technical Assistance to Rocky Mountain Communities; Application Deadline June 15

[New Mobility West](#) (NMW) is offering technical assistance to help communities in Colorado, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming address challenges and opportunities at the nexus of transportation and community development. Successful applicants will work with the NMW team to create a scope that meets their specific needs and fits within the timeframe and budgetary constraints of the NMW assistance program. Typically, projects will include a one-to-three day site visit and workshop. Each project will include a short, visually compelling report with clear recommendations and action steps. The application deadline is **June 15**. Click [here](#) for more information and to apply.

IEDC Hosting Webinar on Retaining Businesses After a Crisis

The longer a business is closed after a disaster, the less likely it will reopen. Successful responses to aid businesses return to operations is vital to jumpstart recovery for the community. These strategies are not only effective in retaining local businesses but can lead to expansion or modernization of operations and an increase in employment. The [International Economic Development Council](#) (IEDC) is hosting a webinar on [RestoreYourEconomy.org](#) on **June 11 from 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. ET** on strategies to retain businesses impacted by disaster both in the short and long-term. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

The next installment in the 2015 Disaster Preparedness and Economic Recovery webinar series will take place on **July 15** and will focus on building resilience into your economy. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

NADO CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2015 NADO Summer Board of Directors Meeting

June 6 – 8, 2015

Portland Regency Hotel, Portland, ME

2015 Executive Director Training

(Presented by NADO and the National Association of Regional Councils)

August 9 – 11, 2015

Omni Austin Downtown, Austin, TX

2015 NADO Annual Training Conference

October 24 – 27, 2015

New Orleans Marriott, New Orleans, LA

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