

**March 8, 2019**



## **THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS**

- **John Fleming Confirmed as Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development**
- **Reminder: Register for the NADO & DDAA Washington Conference, March 17-20, 2019**
- **USDA Seeking Applications for Technology Grants to Expand Access to Healthcare and Education in Rural Areas**
- **Upcoming NADO Research Foundation Webinar on Developing and Promoting Solar Energy**
- **March 17, 2019 Deadline Approaching: Apply for an Excellence in Regional Transportation Award**
- **Registration Now Open for the National CEDS Forum in Columbus, Ohio**
- **Job Announcements**

## **LEGISLATIVE NEWS**

### **John Fleming Confirmed as Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development**

On March 7, 2019 the Senate voted 67-30 to confirm John Fleming as the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development. In this role, Fleming will oversee the US Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA). Fleming previously served as a Congressman representing Louisiana's fourth district from 2009 to 2017.

## Recording Available from Recent NADO Webinar on Preparing for NADO on the Hill 2019

The [recording is now available](#) from NADO's recent webinar on preparing for **NADO on the Hill 2019** – NADO's day of advocacy on Capitol Hill – which will be held on **Tuesday, March 19, 2019** in conjunction with the 2019 NADO & DDAA Washington Conference. The webinar featured guest speaker Mary Martha Henson, former Legislative Director for former Senator Cochran and current Deputy Director of the Jackson County Economic Development Foundation in Mississippi. The webinar covered topics including: tips for scheduling meetings with Hill staff; suggestions for presenting effective handouts and materials; a review of key Senate and House committees; and tips for effectively telling your region's story.

- The PowerPoint slides from the presentation [can be accessed here](#).
- An invitation to NADO's Capitol Hill reception, which will be held in the Rayburn House Building on Tuesday March 19, [can be found here](#). NADO members are encouraged to share the invitation.

## NADO NEWS AND NOTES



### Reminder: Register for the NADO and DDAA 2019 Washington Conference

Don't forget to register for the NADO and DDAA 2019 Washington Conference, which will be held from **March 17-20, 2019** at the [Crystal Gateway Marriott](#) in Arlington, Virginia.

- To view a draft agenda for the conference, please click [here](#).
- To register for the conference, please click [here](#).
- To make hotel reservations at the Crystal Gateway Marriott, please contact Vicki Glass at [vglass@nado.org](mailto:vglass@nado.org) or 202-841-8139.
- For a list of other hotels located nearby, click [here](#).

Questions? Please direct general questions about the conference to [Mirielle Burgoyne](#). Questions about the conference registration portal can be directed to [Ian Schramm](#). We hope to see you there!



# National CEDS Forum

**June 18-20, 2019**  
Columbus, Ohio

**NADO**  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS  
RESEARCH FOUNDATION

**STRONGER CEDS**  
**STRONGER REGIONS**  
A NADO Research Foundation Program

## **Registration Now Open for the National CEDS Forum in Columbus, Ohio (June 18-20, 2019)**

The first ever [National CEDS Forum](#) is scheduled for **June 18-20, 2019 in Columbus, Ohio**. This event will bring together staff from Economic Development Districts, regional organizations, tribes, and federal agencies for a mix of training sessions, tours, and networking opportunities. Participants will learn about the latest best practices and resources available to support their Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) planning, development, and implementation. Session topics will focus on: economic resilience and diversification; accessing and interpreting data; aligning the CEDS with other plans; outreach and engagement; federal funding opportunities; and more. The forum will be co-located with the [National Regional Transportation Conference](#) and will include a handful of joint sessions and tours. For more information or to register for this event go [here](#). Registration ends **May 15, 2019**. If you have any questions please contact Brett Schwartz at [bschwartz@nado.org](mailto:bschwartz@nado.org).

## **Registration Opening Soon: National Regional Transportation Conference**

The National Regional Transportation Conference will be held from **June 17-19, 2019 in Columbus, Ohio**. This event provides peer-to-peer learning for regional transportation planners, state Department of Transportation representatives, and their local and private sector partners working in multiple transportation modes. The conference provides training and networking

opportunities on a variety of rural and small metropolitan transportation topics. The conference will offer training for organizations and individuals just beginning to work in transportation, as well as those with more experience with hands-on workshops, best practice panels, and facilitated networking sessions that feature peer trainers and expert speakers. For more information go [here](#).

### **Upcoming NADO Research Foundation Webinar on Developing and Promoting Solar Energy at the Regional Level**

Fostering a solar energy market at the regional level can grow economies and create jobs. Regional development organizations are uniquely positioned to advance solar energy through their ability to convene local stakeholders, distribute resources, and provide assistance in permitting and planning. Join an upcoming [webinar](#) on **March 13, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. ET** co-sponsored by the [NADO Research Foundation](#) and [ICMA](#) to learn about solar best practices at the regional level and how [SolSmart](#) is supporting regional organizations dedicated to advancing solar energy. Panelists will discuss how to promote and implement effective local solar policies and the benefits of regional harmonization of solar energy permitting and planning efforts. The webinar will provide a brief overview of SolSmart, a national designation and no-cost technical assistance program funded by the U.S. Department of Energy to make it faster, easier, and more affordable for residents and businesses to convert to solar energy. SolSmart has launched a regional designation and will support regional organizations interested in advancing regional solar energy efforts through the provision of no-cost technical assistance. To learn more about this webinar and to register go [here](#).

### **AARP Accepting Applications for the Community Challenge Grant Program**

[AARP](#) is now accepting applications for its [Community Challenge](#) grant program. In 2019 the grant program will provide funds for community-based “quick-action” projects related to housing, transportation, smart cities, and public spaces. The goal is to spark change and build momentum to improve livability for people of all ages. Applications are due by **April 17, 2019** and projects must be completed by **November 4, 2019**. More information and applications can be found [here](#).

### **NADO Research Foundation Seeking Information on Rural ITS Projects**

Do you know of rural/small town (non-MPO) transportation technology projects in your region or state that have been implemented (not future planned efforts) and have been effective? This could include variable message signs, safety projects involving technology, transit technology projects, traveler information, or even preparing for connected or autonomous vehicles. Has your region completed a regional intelligent transportation systems (ITS) plan that includes rural service area? Have any rural projects been completed since that plan was adopted? Is there information you'd like to know about certain types of transportation technologies? What kinds of projects would be useful to learn about? Please send information to NADO Associate Director Carrie Kissel at [ckissel@nado.org](mailto:ckissel@nado.org). This information will help to shape a NADO Research Foundation project on ITS supported by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

### **March 17, 2019 Deadline Approaching: Apply for an Excellence in Regional Transportation Award**

NADO members and their partners have until **March 17, 2019** to submit applications for NADO and RPO America's Excellence in Regional Transportation Award. This program recognizes noteworthy projects and practices in rural and small metropolitan areas that help meet regional needs through various program areas, including: bicycle and pedestrian planning, air quality, equity, ITS, project implementation, public involvement, safety, transit, freight, regional transportation planning, and other project types or issue areas. Apply [here](#).

### **USDA Accepting Applications for Communities Connect Program Grants Increasing Access to Broadband in Rural Areas**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development is accepting applications for grants to establish broadband infrastructure in unserved rural communities. The [Community Connect Program](#) helps rural communities extend access where broadband service is least likely to be commercially available, but where it can make a tremendous difference in the quality of life for people and businesses. State and local governments, federally-recognized tribes, nonprofits, and for-profit corporations are eligible to apply. Grants awarded through this program must be used to provide broadband service at a minimum rate-of-data transmission of 25 megabits downstream and 3 megabits upstream, which is the speed benchmark for broadband connectivity adopted by the Federal Communications Commission. Awardees must also use their USDA funding to offer free broadband service to all critical community facilities and a community center in their proposed service area for two years.

The minimum grant amount is \$100,000; the maximum amount is \$3 million. Applicants must be able to provide a 15 percent match on the desired grant amount. The deadline to apply is **April 15, 2019**. For additional information about the current application window, see the [Funding Opportunity Announcement](#). Applicants are also encouraged to review the [Community Connect Grant Program Application Guide for Fiscal Year 2019](#) for details on how to complete a successful application.

### **USDA is Seeking Applications for Technology Grants to Expand Access to Healthcare and Education in Rural Areas**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development is accepting applications for grants to use broadband technology to improve access to healthcare and educational services in rural communities. Rural Development will award grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$500,000 through its [Distance Learning and Telemedicine \(DLT\) Grant Program](#). The grants can be used to finance telecommunication equipment, computer networks, and advanced technologies to support job training, academic instruction, or access to specialized medical care in rural areas.

The application deadline is **May 15, 2019**. Grants are awarded through a national competition. Each application must provide evidence of consultation with the Rural Development State Director. When requesting evidence of consultation, applicants should provide an executive summary of the project, as well as the proposed grant and match amounts. Prior to applying, applicants are encouraged to review the [2019 Traditional Application Guide](#). For additional details about the program and how to apply, see [Funding Opportunity Announcement No. RUS-19-02-DLT](#).



## **Application Cycle for the 2019 POWER Initiative Now Open**

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) is now accepting applications for the 2019 round of the Partnership for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization (POWER) initiative. The 2019 Request for Proposals (RFP) is available [here](#). Completed applications are due no later than **April 10, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. ET**. Approximately \$45 million will be awarded through this competitive grant process.

In FY 2019, ARC's POWER Initiative will continue to focus on regional investments that maximize economic revitalization in the Appalachian region's coal-impacted communities. Before submitting a funding proposal, potential applicants must contact the appropriate ARC [state program manager](#) for specific guidance pertaining to the eligible use of POWER funds in their state.

ARC has awarded \$120 million to date through the POWER Initiative in order to help coal-impacted communities in [309 Appalachian counties](#) diversify and grow their economies. POWER project summaries detailing past awardees' action plans are available [here](#). With questions about the POWER Initiative, please email [power@arc.gov](mailto:power@arc.gov).

## **Economic Development Administration Now Accepting Applications for 2019 Regional Innovation Strategies Program**

The Economic Development Administration (EDA) is now accepting applications for the [2019 Regional Innovation Strategies \(RIS\) Program](#). The [RIS Program](#) offers funding through two competitions:

- **FY19 i6 Challenge**—catalyzing high-growth entrepreneurship throughout the country, the i6 Challenge awards up to \$750,000 for projects that increase regional capacity to accelerate the translation of innovations, ideas, intellectual property, and research into products, services, companies, and jobs.
- **FY19 Seed Fund Support (SFS) Grant Competition**—unlocking risk capital for entrepreneurs and startups to grow, SFS grants provide up to \$300,000 for projects that create, launch, or expand equity-based seed funds or that create networks and tools that enable capital to flow into high-growth startups in all parts of the country.

For information on eligibility and how to apply visit EDA's [Regional Innovation Strategies webpage](#) for details on upcoming RIS webinars, frequently asked questions, previous awardees, and to read the official [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#) in its entirety. All applications to the 2019 RIS Program competitions must be submitted no later than **Thursday, April 4, 2019 11:59 pm ET**.

## **JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **The New Growth Innovation Network is Seeking a Chief Executive Officer**

The New Growth Innovation Network (NGIN) is a national organization of leading economic development practitioners committed to building a new field of quality economic growth practice. The Chief Executive Officer's Responsibilities include recruiting key staff and building

a strong team and organizational culture; leading strategic business planning and program development and evaluation to deliver on NGIN's value proposition; cultivating a network of engaged members; securing and stewarding NGIN's resources; exercising thought leadership within the economic development field and extending NGIN's engagement with corporate and other audiences; and executing all critical governance and operations tasks.

A bachelor's degree is required. A graduate degree or equivalent professional experience is preferred. The ideal candidate will have a minimum of seven to ten years of leadership experience in economic development or a related field. NGIN is currently staffed from Chicago, Illinois but its board of directors and membership are national. Interested candidates should send a cover letter and resume to Robert Weissbourd at [bob@weissbourd.com](mailto:bob@weissbourd.com) by **April 5, 2019**. More information on the position and the application process can be found [here](#).

### **The City of Waterbury, Connecticut is Seeking a City Planner**

The city of Waterbury, Connecticut is seeking a City Planner. The City Planner performs professional and administrative work. This position directs, actively manages, and leads the Planning Department which oversees: land use, wetlands, and zoning enforcement. The City Planner is responsible for short and long-term planning needs of the city, including the City Plan of Conservation and Development which was last updated in 2015 and will require updating by 2025. The City Planner also supervises and assigns work to the three Land Use Officers who assist with development plans and permits and enforcing zoning and inland wetland regulations. The planner works with and provides advice to the following Boards and Commissions: City Plan Commission, Zoning Commission, Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission, and Zoning Board of Appeals.

Qualifications for the position include a master's degree in planning or a related field from an accredited college or university with major course work in urban planning, regional planning, urban design, public administration, business management, or a closely related field, plus five years of experience in comprehensive urban planning preferably with a mid-to large-sized municipality, including two years of administrative and supervisory responsibility; 6 additional years of responsible planning experience is acceptable in lieu of Masters' degree; AICP certification preferred.

For more information or to apply for the position go [here](#). Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

## **NADO CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **2019 NADO & DDAA Washington Conference**

March 17-20, 2019

Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington, Virginia

### **NADO Summer Board Meeting**

June 1-3, 2019

Pelican Grand Hotel, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

## **The National Regional Transportation Conference**

June 17-19, 2019

Hyatt Regency Columbus in Columbus, Ohio

## **National CEDS Forum**

June 18-20, 2019

Hyatt Regency Columbus in Columbus, Ohio

## **Economic Development Conference for the EDA Denver Region**

August 26 - 28, 2019

Grand Hyatt Denver, Denver, Colorado

<https://www.nado.org/events/2019-economic-development-conference-for-the-eda-denver-region/>

## **NADO Annual Training Conference**

October 19-22, 2019

Peppermill Resort, Reno, Nevada

## **Southwest Region Economic Development Association (SWREDA) Annual Conference**

December 4 - 6, 2019

Drury Hotel, Santa Fe, New Mexico

[www.swreda.com/annual-conference](http://www.swreda.com/annual-conference)

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## **STAY CONNECTED**

