



REGIONAL ECONOMIC AREA PARTNERSHIP (REAP)
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PRESS ADVISORY
06/22/07

**REAP Executive Committee to Hear Kansas Affordable
Airfares Program Fiscal Year 2008 Presentations**

The Regional Economic Area Partnership (REAP) received two proposals for the Kansas Affordable Airfares Program for fiscal year 2008 and will entertain presentations by the parties who submitted applications.

"In administering the Kansas Affordable Airfares Program, REAP wants to assure that the program is carried out in line with the intentions of the Kansas Legislature and the State of Kansas" stated REAP chairman, Commissioner Tom Winters of Sedgwick County. "By using a process that allows applicants to present proposals to the Executive Committee members, REAP will be able to better evaluate and select awarding of these funds to ensure that air travel is available, competitive, and affordable to all Kansans."

The REAP Executive Committee is scheduled to begin at noon and presentations are scheduled to commence at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 26, 2007 in the Kansas Room of the Wichita Workforce Center, 150 North Main.

REAP is a council of local governments comprised of thirty-two cities and counties in South Central Kansas. These local governments have voluntarily joined together to guide state and national actions that affect economic

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development in the region and to adopt joint actions among member governments that enhance the regional economy.

Under the authority of House Substitute for Senate Bill 475 and the omnibus appropriation bill, Senate Bill 2968, both enacted in the 2006 session of the Kansas Legislature, REAP is assigned authority for administering the Kansas Affordable Airfares Program.

REAP established a selection process and selection criteria for administering the Kansas Affordable Airfares Program. Selection criteria include more air flight options, more competition for air travel, and affordable air fares for Kansas. In making awards, REAP will give highest priority to maintaining affordable airfares to eastern U.S. destinations. Next highest priority will be given to developing affordable airfares to western U.S. destinations.

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