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## **PRESS ADVISORY**

**DATE:** March 16, 2010

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:** Joe Yager, REAP Chief Executive Officer,  
[joe.yager@wichita.edu](mailto:joe.yager@wichita.edu), 316-978-6542, [www.reap-ks.org](http://www.reap-ks.org).

### **REAP Announces Kansas Affordable Airfares Program Request for Proposals for Fiscal Year 2010 Addendum**

The Regional Economic Area Partnership (REAP) today announced the release of an addendum to the original request for proposals for the Kansas Affordable Airfares Program for fiscal year 2010 (July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010).

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 Program that include more air flight options, more competition for air travel, and affordable air fares for Kansas.

On July 13, 2009, REAP took action to award \$4,875,000 to a proposal from Sedgwick County under the Kansas Affordable Airfares Program. This action left \$125,000 uncommitted in the state appropriation for Kansas Affordable Airfares Program for fiscal year 2010. REAP recommended that the uncommitted funds not be requested from the State of Kansas at the time of initial award, but remain available for later action if additional opportunities that meet the purposes of the Kansas Affordable Airfares Program arose.

These remaining funds of \$125,000 are now available through an addendum to the original request for proposals and will require a local match of \$41,250 at the time of the award.

Since the initial award addressed the highest priority of maintaining affordable airfares to eastern U.S. destinations, highest priority for this award will be given to maintaining affordable airfares to western U.S. destinations. Priority will also be given to proposals that impact a majority of Kansans.

Proposals will be accepted through 5:00 PM, March 29, 2010, and the selection of a successful proposal(s) will be March 30, 2010.

REAP is a council of local governments comprised of thirty-seven cities and counties in South Central Kansas. These local governments have voluntarily joined together to guide state and national actions that affect economic development in the region and to adopt joint actions among member governments that enhance the regional economy. To learn more about REAP, go to [www.reap-ks.org](http://www.reap-ks.org) or contact Joe Yager at 316-978-6542 ([joe.yager@wichita.edu](mailto:joe.yager@wichita.edu)).