

# KEY ECONOMIC DRIVERS

The members of REAP focus on issues of common concern that drive the regional economy including transportation, water, energy and workforce development.

## WORKFORCE IN THE REGION



**42%**

of manufacturing employment  
in Kansas employing

**63,000**



**127,275**

directly/  
indirectly  
employed in  
healthcare

McConnell Air Force Base  
economic impact of

**\$596.1 million**

**17,744** directly/  
indirectly employed



## EXPORTS

10 County South Central  
Kansas Region showed a  
total of **\$6.87 billion**  
in Exports.

**\$27.89 million**  
new Exports since  
2016

# REAP

## Regional Economic Area Partnership

## ENERGY

The REAP region hosts **2**  
of the **3** Kansas oil  
refineries, a large wind  
generator assembly plant  
and **4** REAP counties  
contain wind farms.

## EDUCATION

Six State-supported post-  
secondary institutions serving  
**52,719** students as of  
Fall 2017

Medical education and training at the Kansas University School  
of Medicine - Wichita

Research and development at  
the National Institute for  
Aviation Research (NIAR) at  
Wichita State University

## TRANSPORTATION

Assets in the Region:  
I-35 Corridor

Passenger Rail Service  
Eisenhower National Airport –  
largest airport in state of Kansas

## WATER

**2** Ground Management Districts (GMD's):  
Equus Beds Aquifer and Big Bend Aquifer

Supplying water to **20%** of the KS population

**3** Major Reservoirs:  
Cheney, El Dorado and Marion

# REAP

# Regional Economic Area Partnership

## 2018 Legislative and Policy Priorities

REAP's purpose is to provide a unified voice for the region at the state and national levels, advance greater economic prosperity from regional cooperation and address issues that cross political boundaries. REAP will also work and coordinate with regional partners on mutual priorities and updates as updates occur during the session. The following issues have been identified by the members of REAP as policy and Legislative priorities for South Central Kansas.

### REGIONAL JOB GROWTH & BUSINESS EXPANSION

- REAP supports initiatives that positively influence the quality of the workforce.
- REAP supports policies and investments targeting skills training in high-demand areas that generate high wage career opportunities vital to economic development in South Central Kansas such as manufacturing, healthcare, and information technology.
- REAP supports regional strategies in workforce, innovations, and trade to create jobs and grow business in the region.
  - Blueprint for Regional Economic Growth (BREG)
  - South Central Kansas Regional Export Plan/FDI
  - Cooperative tactics among post-secondary institutions to increase access to education and skills training
- REAP supports expansion of the Medicaid (KanCare) that is revenue neutral for at-risk Kansans providing vital revenues to local hospitals and stimulating the economy by creating thousands of jobs.
- REAP supports continued availability and protection of economic development incentives, programs, and tools to keep the state competitive.

### REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Funding for Transportation Infrastructure**  
REAP recognizes the need for dedicated and secure state revenue and emphasize the need for adequate funding to build and preserve the transportation infrastructure in South Central Kansas, specifically projects / investments with that are vital to business and industry.
- **Rail Service**  
REAP supports state funding for existing freight rail service and expansion of passenger rail in Kansas, specifically passenger rail service expanding the Heartland Flyer from Dallas/Ft Worth and Oklahoma City connecting through Wichita to Newton and the Southwest Chief, providing our state with service to Oklahoma and Texas.
- **Water Protection**  
REAP supports policies and strategies to protect water resources critical to the economy of South Central Kansas; including of the protection of the Equus Beds Aquifer that supplies water for 20% of the Kansas population.
- **Energy Resources**  
REAP recognizes the importance of energy to the regional economy and supports access to, and production of a variety of energy sources from oil and natural gas to renewable resources, such as wind and solar power.

### FEDERAL ISSUES

- REAP supports extending the authorization of the Federal Aviation Administration, and opposes the privatization of the Air Traffic Control System. Private air traffic control could be damaging to economic activity in the region.
- REAP supports efforts to boost investments in infrastructure and monitor implementation of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act.
- REAP supports employment and training systems driven by the needs of business and industry by leveraging opportunities under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) to enhance sector-based partnerships that are employer led and advocate for demand-driven workforce and training programs.
- Including the favorable tax status funding