

## 2019 REAP Yearly Review

### Vision

A connection between communities in South Central Kansas to convene partners for collaboration to develop regional initiatives and strategies to promote economic growth, job expansion & workforce development, and to give local governments an organized forum to identify policy priorities and take joint actions.

### Mission

Provide a strong voice for the region at the state and national levels, advance greater economic prosperity through regional cooperation, and address issues that cross governmental boundaries.

2019 brought about significant changes for REAP in vision, mission and structure. The main objectives of the 2019 REAP Work Plan were successfully executed. The organization saw a major transition as it created a taskforce to focus on regional collaboration to enhance coordination.

The Partners for Regional Collaboration (PRC) was established with active regional organizations and partners in South Central Kansas. Though each of the organizations has diverse missions and visions, there is much overlap of members and strategies to grow the region. As REAP continues in its efforts to connect local leaders to advocate for South Central Kansas, and to support initiatives on significant regional issues, the taskforce examined *“How can regional organizations come together to become more effective to members by creating a unified voice?”*

REAP engaged the following organizations on the taskforce: SCKEDD, SCAC, Harvey County Council of Governments, WAMPO, Hwy 254, Greater Wichita Partnership, Kansas Global Trade Services, the Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas, and K96 Corridor. This group works together to assess the region and develop strategies to advocate for and strengthen the South Central Kansas economy.

REAP coordinated four quarterly convenings in 2019 that were open to all regional governing bodies, partner organizations and leaders in business and industry. Approximately 100 local, state and federal elected officials, along with many community leaders attended each event.

The convenings addressed the following regional priorities as identified by the REAP Executive Board and the PRC:

- Behavioral Health Care
- Impact of Agriculture Industry in South Central Kansas
- Broadband Access and Expansion
- Workforce Development - Employment and Skills Training: Business-Led Demand Driven Solutions

Structurally, REAP hired a new executive director, Laura Rainwater, who assumed her duties on April 1. Having worked with multiple agencies and departments at the city, county, and federal level, she has established good working relationships with policy makers at all levels. She has developed strong

relationships with elected officials and city staff in an effort to bring regional collaboration to the forefront to promote economic efficiency and sustained growth for the area.

The 2019 Work Plan adopted by the REAP membership allowed the Executive Committee (EC) to oversee the business operations of REAP at monthly EC meetings. This has resulted in a more efficient and flexible organization.

# REAP | Regional Economic Area Partnership

**Motto/Tag Line**  
 We're better together.

**Vision**  
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**Mission**  
 Provide a strong voice for the region at the state and national levels, advance greater economic prosperity through regional cooperation, and address issues that cross governmental boundaries.

**OBJECTIVE: Convene partners and coordinate actions on significant regional issues**

TASKS	ACTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION	PARTY RESPONSIBLE	DUE DATE
Coordinate awareness and engagement of regional partners (i.e., SCKEDD, SCAC, GWP, Chamber, WAMPO, K-96, K-254, KS Global & Workforce Alliance)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional Board of Directors / Partners Meetings - quarterly</li> <li>Monthly Executive Committee Board Meetings</li> <li>Monthly executive leadership meetings with partners</li> <li>Represent the region on committees: WAMPO TAC, Wichita Transit Advisory, Airport Advisory, I Fly Wichita</li> </ul>	Staff Executive Committee	Events are ongoing throughout the year.
Promote regional collaboration and action (PRC); and improve communication between REAP organization and partners through specific strategies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monthly regional update</li> <li>Consistent regional agenda items across multiple organizations</li> <li>Leverage meeting and administrative support</li> <li>Collaboration around regional issues including: Transportation, Behavioral Health, Workforce Development, Commercial Air Service, Passenger Rail Service</li> <li>Host Mayors Summit (Spring 2020)</li> </ul>	Staff Executive Committee	Monthly or as needed.

**OBJECTIVE: Advocate for South Central Kansas to state and federal government officials**

TASKS	ACTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION	PARTY RESPONSIBLE	DUE DATE
Build relationships at the state & national through direct contact with REAP members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate the annual delegation in January</li> <li>• Reception following the delegation meeting</li> <li>• Host the delegation for lunch in Topeka</li> <li>• Regional update for REAP for members, partners, stakeholders, state officials, and federal officials</li> <li>• Engage the federal delegation</li> </ul>	Staff Executive Committee Legislative Committee	Events are ongoing throughout the year.
Identify regional policy priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create regional policy priorities with partners including: City of Wichita, Sedgwick County, Wichita Regional Chamber, KAC, and LKM.</li> </ul>	Executive Committee Legislative Committee	
<b>Additional Items for Consideration on the Work Plan</b>			