



REAP Executive Committee Meeting Agenda
Wichita Workforce Center - 2021 N. Amidon, #1100
OR Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87961157122>
January 25, 2024~ 11:30 AM

- 1. Welcome and Introductions:** Chair Pete Meitzner, Commissioner, Sedgwick County (11:30 AM)
- 2. Approval of Minutes REAP Meeting: December 7, 2023** (11:35 AM)
Recommended Action: Approve as presented
- 3. Legislative Update:** Kimberly and Josh Svaty (11:40 AM)
Recommended Action: Receive and file report
- 4. Digital Skill Grant Opportunity:** Amanda Duncan, Vice President, Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas (12:10 PM)
Recommended Action: Receive and consider grant opportunity
- 5. Strategy Sharing: Using Social Media & Technology to Promote Your Community:** Brent Clark, City Administrator, Valley Center (12:20 PM)
Recommended Action: Receive and share
- 6. Executive Director's Report:** Dr. Marcy Aycock (12:40 PM)
 - a. Review of December-January events/engagements
 - b. Legislative Public Forum
 - c. Legislative Delegation Networking Reception
 - d. Call for meeting programs/presenters – sharing of best practices
 - e. Upcoming events/opportunities
 - f. Communications updates
 - i. Community visits
 - ii. Calendar of events
 - iii. Community Spotlights
 1. February volunteer?*Recommended Action: Receive and file report*
- 7. REAP Member Updates, Best Practices and Opportunities:** Members (12:45 PM)
REAP member sharing of news and happenings of interest in the region
Recommended Action: Receive and file report
- 8. Adjourn:** (1:00 PM)

NEXT MEETING: February 22, 2024, Benton Elementary School (tentative location)



REAP Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
December 7, 2023 | 11:30 AM
Wichita Workforce Center
2021 N. Amidon, #1100
Wichita, KS 67203

1. Welcome and Introductions:

- Sedgwick County Commissioner Pete Meitzner, Chair, called the meeting to order and began introductions.

2. Approval of Minutes from Executive Committee Meeting from November 2, 2023;

ACTION TAKEN: Mayor Ashley Velazquez, Kechi, moved to approve the November 2, 2023, REAP Executive Committee Meeting Minutes as presented. Councilmember Nick Engle, Derby, seconded. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. REAP Organizational Committee: Nominations and Review of By-Laws:

- Kelly McElroy, Vice Chair, City of Garden Plain, presented the nominations for 2024 REAP officers.
- Kelly explained the special committee is recommending the addition of a 1st and 2nd Vice Chair to allow more flexibility in our leadership structure.
- The nominations for 2024:
 - Chair: Commissioner Pete Meitzner, Sedgwick County
 - 1st Vice Chair: Mayor Ashley Velazquez, City of Kechi
 - 2nd Vice Chair: Commissioner Rod Kreie, City of Newton
 - Treasurer: Mayor Russ Kessler, City of Haysville

ACTION TAKEN: Mayor Terry Somers, Mount Hope, moved to approve the nominations as presented. Mayor Tom Brown, McPherson, seconded. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. Regional Legislative Priorities:

- Keith Lawing recommended REAP continue to support the Kansas Air Service Development program to expand commercial air service of the seven commercial airports in Kansas.
- Jesse Romo, Director of Airports for the City of Wichita, reinforced the importance of air service support throughout Kansas.



- Jesse said each airport will have to reach out to their city officials and chamber to support the agenda. Ideally, the goal is for all regional airports to qualify for the Multi-Agency Center Grant.
- Keith explained how Mental Health and Homelessness will be a regional legislative priority for 2024.
- Councilmember Jason Shore, Clearwater, said a focus on mental health within our youth is an important issue to address.
- Commissioner Pete Meitzner, Chair, stated there has been a discussion with Governor Kelly about adding a Grant in the budget for one-time support to help with the Homeless issue. He also said there is a lot of organizational support throughout the state.
- Keith Lawing introduced a letter of support for the Grant to be sent to Governor Kelly on behalf of the South Central Kansas Legislative partners.
- Mayor Ashley Velazquez, Kechi, suggested the word homeless be replaced with unhoused to be consistent.

ACTION TAKEN: Mayor Tom Brown, McPherson, moved to approve the letter. Mayor Russ Kessler, Haysville, seconded. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. Mayor Tom Brown, McPherson, moved to approve the 2024 Legislative Priorities with the adjustments suggested. Mayor Russ Kessler, Haysville, seconded. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. 2024 Work Plan & Budget Review:

- Marcy Aycock presented the priorities of the 2024 Work Plan and Goals.
- Keith Lawing presented the 2024 Budget and pointed out the specific changes from last year's budget.
- Keith also highlighted a major reduction in expenditures for 2024. He said there would be revisions to the 2024 contract with Gencur Svaty.
- REAP has been building up reserves for the last two years. Keith shared the importance of a budget with realistic expenditures and expected revenue.

ACTION TAKEN: Mayor Tom Brown, McPherson, moved to approve the 2024 Work Plan and Budget. Kelly McElroy, Vice Chair, seconded. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Executive Director's Report:

- Marcy Aycock presented the proposed REAP meeting dates for 2024. The new dates reflect holding the REAP meeting on the third Thursday of each month



instead of the first Thursday. After some discussion, it was determined the fourth Thursday worked better for the majority of members in attendance.

ACTION TAKEN: Commissioner Pete Meitzner, Chair, moved to accept moving the meeting to the fourth Thursday of each month. Councilmember Rod Kreie, Newton, seconded. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

7. REAP Member Updates, Best Practices and Opportunities:

- Kelly McElroy, Vice Chair, mentioned the Council of Hope has a Christmas lights event going on until the first of January.
- Councilmember Rod Kreie, Newton will have their Christmas parade on December 7th.
- Councilmember Michael Hoheisel, Wichita, encouraged members to tour the Emergency Shelter. He also mentioned the City Tree Lighting will take place on December 8th.
- Councilmember Homer Henry, Andover, shared Andover will be having a Christmas light contest.
- Mayor Tom Brown, McPherson, Christmas Event in McPherson on December 9th.

8. Adjourn:

- Meeting was adjourned at 1:05

NEXT MEETING: Our next meeting will be Thursday, January 25, 2024 @ 11:30



Attendees:

Name	Community/Partner	In Person	Zoom
Commissioner Pete Meitzner, REAP Chairmen	Sedgwick County	X	
City Manager Kelly McElroy, REAP Vice Chair	Garden Plain	X	
Council Member Justin Shore	Clearwater	X	
Council Member Nick Engle	Derby	X	
Mayor Tom Brown	McPherson	X	
Council Member Rod Kreie	Newton	X	
Mayor Russ Kessler	Haysville	X	
Commissioner Don Schroeder	Harvey County	X	
Mayor Terry Somers	Mount Hope	X	
Council Member Homer Henry	Andover		X
Vice Mayor Michael Hoheisel	Wichita		X
Mayor Ashley Velazquez	Kechi	X	
Superintendent Justin Henry	Goddard Public Schools		X
Dr. David Guo, Director HWS	Wichita State University	X	
Zach McHatton, Director of Community Development	Newton	X	
Jesse Romo, Director of Airports	Wichita	X	
Rex Satterthwaite	Community Partner, Bentley	X	
Valerie Wise, Air Service and Marketing Manager	Wichita	X	
Kimberly Svaty	Gencur Svaty Public Affairs		X
Katie Sawyer	Senator Roger Marshall's Office	X	
Tom Boese	GMD2		X
Diane Tinker Hurst	WSU		X
Keith Lawing	Workforce Alliance	X	
Dr. Marcy Aycock	REAP	X	
Kim Uttinger	REAP	X	

HOW STATE AND LOCAL LEADERS CAN HARNESS NEW INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING TO BUILD A STRONGER, MORE INCLUSIVE WORKFORCE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Martha Ross, Joseph W. Kane, Felix Laniyan, and Annelies Goger



Read the [full report](#): “How state and local leaders can harness new infrastructure funding to build a stronger, more inclusive workforce.”

The U.S. currently faces a once-in-a-generation window to invest in infrastructure and expand economic opportunity. With the [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act](#) (IIJA) of 2021, the federal government directed unprecedented levels of funding to improve the country’s transportation, water, energy, and broadband systems, in addition to addressing a variety of climate needs. Now, attention shifts to state and local leaders, who hold the most control over how infrastructure projects will ultimately be planned, designed, and implemented.

Whether they realize it or not, a key task for these leaders is to ensure that when infrastructure jobs open up, there will be workers ready to fill them. The infrastructure field has long faced challenges in finding and retaining workers, and it does not have a strong track record of inclusion and diversity. If state and local leaders act strategically, they can harness IIJA funding to make both short- and long-term investments in the next generation of infrastructure talent. But if leaders and employers continue to treat recruitment, hiring, and training practices as an afterthought, the country will likely miss out on this legislation’s transformative potential to drive inclusive growth, make a just climate transition, and spur innovation and global competitiveness.

The Brookings Federal Infrastructure Hub [estimates](#) that the IIJA will fund \$864 billion in spending over five years. The law authorizes 400-plus programs across multiple federal agencies that channel funds to various state and local entities, and these programs have varying guidelines, timelines, and eligibility requirements. Congress did not directly channel any IIJA funding into the public workforce development system, nor does the legislation provide much explicit funding dedicated to workforce activities. Rather, workforce activities are allowable or embedded within a subset of the IIJA’s multitude of programs. In practical terms, this makes it more difficult for state and local leaders to clearly identify which federal infrastructure funding is available to support workforce

investments—which in turn could make it less likely they will prioritize workforce development and integrate it into infrastructure plans and projects.

“A key task for state and local leaders is to ensure that when infrastructure jobs open up, there will be workers ready to fill them.”

The IIJA’s sheer size and complexity pose real challenges around implementation. The state and local leaders making decisions about infrastructure projects and investments are often not familiar with existing education and workforce assets that can support more strategic recruitment, training, and retention activities, while local and state workforce programs may not know how to focus their outreach and partnership efforts. This report attempts to fill these knowledge gaps by equipping state and local leaders with more information and guidance on how to use expanded federal infrastructure funding to invest strategically in workforce development activities. We conducted an extensive analysis of the law and found that:

- **Overall, the IIJA offers state and local leaders a high level of discretion on whether and how they incorporate workforce development activities into infrastructure investments.** This is both an opportunity and a challenge. It allows for creativity and flexibility to reach more and different types of workers, but also requires leaders to overcome the inertia of status quo practices that do not typically prioritize strategic investments in workforce development.

- **Out of the IIJA's 400-plus programs, we identified 72 that emphasize or allow workforce development, totaling \$490 billion.** Most of that \$490 billion will not go to workforce development activities, but even a small share would be a sizable amount. State and local leaders ultimately have a great deal of control to shape the amount of funding and types of activities that are directed toward workforce development. Only six of the 72 programs (totaling \$281 million, or less than 1% of the funding we identified) solely focus on workforce activities such as recruitment and training.
- **More than 70% of the funding allowing workforce development activities will flow through the Department of Transportation (DOT).** Other agencies that received significant funding for programs that emphasize or allow workforce activities include the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of Commerce (DOC), and the Department of Energy (DOE).
- **Most of the funding we identified (79%) will go directly to states through formula programs, which means that state agencies such as transportation and energy departments are key actors.** Because formula programs represent so much money, they are a major lever to improve recruiting, hiring, and training practices. However, integrating workforce activities into formula programs may be challenging; agencies administering them have well-established processes and priorities in place, and they typically have not considered workforce development a primary consideration. **This is especially true for highway formula programs, which include some of the largest pots of money that allow workforce development activities.** If governors, mayors, county executives, and agency directors do not provide clear and consistent direction that investing in the infrastructure workforce is a top priority, it is likely to be overlooked.
- **A smaller but still sizable share of federal dollars (21%) will be disbursed through competitive programs, in which state and local entities apply for funds based on specific criteria.** These offer possibilities for additional collaboration and

workforce development activities outside the confines of formula programs. Federal agency officials have much greater leeway to specify requirements and select awards within competitive programs—including the range of eligible state and local entities—compared to the more rigid requirements and narrower list of entities within formula programs.

Building off this analysis, we share a set of action items to guide planning and strategy development. To maximize the IIJA's impact, state and local leaders must shift from short-term, business-as-usual approaches and instead focus on longer-term strategies to boost inclusive economic development and greater opportunities for workers. **Just because the IIJA allows states and local areas the flexibility to invest in workforce development activities does not mean it will be used for that purpose or guarantee better outcomes for workers and employers.** This could lead to delays, increased costs, and inequitable employment outcomes down the line. Infrastructure agencies and employers need to collaborate more closely with existing workforce and education partners rather than create new programs from scratch, especially if they want to enhance their capacity in outreach, support services, reskilling, and retention.



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Governor Kelly Announces Nearly \$5M for Digital Skills Training

TOPEKA – Governor Laura Kelly today announced a \$4.75 million initiative to improve the digital skills of Kansans not yet able to maximize the power of the internet. The Digital Opportunities to Connect Kansans (DOCK) program strengthens access to necessary digital tools and opportunities.

"The Digital Opportunities to Connect Kansans initiative further demonstrates our commitment to ensuring Kansans have the tools necessary to be successful in the digital world," **Governor Laura Kelly said.** "By investing almost \$5 million in digital skills training, we are creating a future for every Kansan to harness the power of technology and unlock its full potential."

"Developing the state's workforce is a top priority for the Legislature," **Kansas House Speaker Dan Hawkins said.** "We're committed to empowering all Kansans with the digital knowledge and skills that will expand access to career opportunities and enable our Kansas businesses to thrive."

"Equipping Kansas workers with digital skills is essential to develop our workforce and grow our economy," **Senate President Ty Masterson said.** "The DOCK program can help us accomplish that important goal."

DOCK promotes access to digital resources by providing awards for digital skills development programs. The maximum individual award is \$250,000, with required matching funds at 5 percent.

"It is critical to recognize the importance of this type of training as Kansas continues to support the needs of a changing workforce while bringing high-speed internet to everyone," **Lieutenant Governor and Secretary of Commerce**

David Toland said. “This program will amplify opportunities for more Kansans by expanding the skills they need to participate in the digital economy.”

The Kansas Office of Broadband Development (KOBD) encourages local governments, community organizations, educational institutions, and others to partner in making the DOCK program a success.

“KOBD is committed to ensuring that every Kansan has the access and tools needed for their future success,” **Jade Piros de Carvalho, KOBD director, said.** “Eliminating barriers will continue to level the playing field for all residents of Kansas, fostering innovation and economic growth opportunities.”

To learn more about the entities eligible to apply, click on the link below:

[Digital Opportunities to Connect Kansans \(DOCK\) \(kansascommerce.gov\)](https://kansascommerce.gov/dock)