

applicant to successfully carry out project. (15 Points)

d. Transferability or demonstrated value of project to help rural areas outside of project area. (20 Points)

e. Ability of project to contribute to the improvement of economic conditions in rural areas with one or more of the following: few rural businesses and agribusinesses; high levels of unemployment or underemployment; high rates of out-migration of people, businesses, industries; and low levels of per capita income. (20 Points) *Applicants must provide data compiled by an independent party to support these conclusions. Applicants may use their choice of data as long as they reflect the intent of serving economically distressed communities and the data are from established official (or recognized) independent sources.*

f. Administrator's discretionary points to focus on telecommunications, geographical distribution, and interagency cooperation. (15 Points)

#### Fiscal Year 1996 Preapplication Submission

Due to the short preapplication period for FY 1996 funds, qualified applicants should begin the preapplication process as soon as possible. Preapplications must include a clear statement of the goals and objectives of the project and a plan which describes the proposed project as required by the statute and 7 CFR part 4284, subpart F. Each preapplication received in the State Office will be reviewed to determine if the preapplication is consistent with the eligible purposes outlined in 7 CFR part 4284, subpart F. The data provided by the applicant will be reviewed and a tentative score sheet prepared by the State Office based on published selection criteria and weights. Preapplications without supportive data to address selection criteria will not be considered. Copies of 7 CFR part 4284, subpart F, will be provided to any interested applicant by making a request to the RECD State Office or RBS National Office.

All eligible preapplications, along with tentative scoring sheets and the State Director's recommendation, will be referred to the National Office within 30 days following receipt of preapplication, and in no case later than June 10, 1996, for final scoring and selection for award. The State Director or his or her designee will provide comments on each preapplication forwarded to the National Office documenting whether the proposal promotes any of the policies set forth in this issuance. Any other comments

helpful to the National Office review are also welcome. The National Office will score applicants based on the grant selection criteria set forth in 7 CFR part 4284, subpart F and weights published in this notice, and will select awardees subject to the availability of funds and the awardee's satisfactory submission of a formal application and related materials in accordance with this subpart. Entities submitting preapplications that are selected for award will be invited by the State Office to submit a formal application. It is anticipated that grant awardees will be selected by August 15, 1996. All applicants will be notified by the RECD State Office of the Agency decision on awards, and non-selectees will be provided appeal rights in accordance with 7 CFR part 1900, subpart B.

Dated: March 12, 1996.

Jill Long Thompson,  
*Under Secretary Rural Economic and Community Development.*

[FR Doc. 96-6627 Filed 3-19-96; 8:45 am]

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#### COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

##### Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the Kansas Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that a meeting of the Kansas Advisory Committee to the Commission will convene at 3:00 p.m. and adjourn at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 9, 1996, at the Coffeyville Community College, 400 West 11th Street, Coffeyville, Kansas 67337. The purpose of the meeting is to plan future activities.

Persons desiring additional information, or planning a presentation to the Committee, should contact Melvin L. Jenkins, Director of the Central Regional Office, 913-551-1400 (TDD 913-551-1414). Hearing-impaired persons who will attend the meeting and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact the Regional Office at least five (5) working days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Dated at Washington, DC, March 11, 1996.  
Carol-Lee Hurley,  
*Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.*

[FR Doc. 96-6608 Filed 3-19-96; 8:45 am]

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##### Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the Massachusetts Advisory Committee

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, that a meeting of the Massachusetts Advisory to the Commission will convene at 1:00 p.m. and adjourn at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 17, 1996, at the State House, Room 222, Beacon Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02133. The purpose of the meeting is to plan future activities.

Persons desiring additional information, or planning a presentation to the Committee, should contact Committee Chairperson Dorothy Jones, 617-623-5610, or Ki-Taek Chun, Director of the Eastern Regional Office, 202-376-7533 (TDD 202-376-8116). Hearing-impaired persons who will attend the meeting and require the services of a sign language interpreter should contact the Regional Office at least five (5) working days before the scheduled date of the meeting.

The meeting will be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the Commission.

Dated at Washington, DC, March 11, 1996.  
Carol-Lee Hurley,  
*Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.*

[FR Doc. 96-6609 Filed 3-19-96; 8:45 am]

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#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

##### International Trade Administration

##### President's Export Council: Meeting of the President's Export Council

**AGENCY:** International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of a Closed Meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The President's Export Council (PEC) will hold a Full Council Meeting to discuss topics related to export expansion. The meeting will include briefings on foreign competitive practices, barriers to trade and other sensitive matters properly classified under Executive Order 12958. The President's Export Council was established on December 20, 1973, and reconstituted May 4, 1979, to advise the President on matters relating to U.S. trade. It was most recently renewed on September 29, 1995, by Executive Order 12974.

A Notice of Determination to close meetings or portions of meetings of the Council to the public on the basis of 5 U.S.C. 552b (c)(1) has been approved