



## 2026 Vendor Request for Qualifications (RFQ)

**Issued by:** Shaping Our Appalachian Region

**Submission Deadline:** Friday, January 16, 2026

### Overview of Shaping Our Appalachian Region

Shaping Our Appalachian Region ([soar-ky.org](https://soar-ky.org)) is connecting talent, opportunity, and community to get 15,000 Eastern Kentuckians to work by 2030. We believe in the power of community, the value of meaningful work, and the potential of every individual. We're creating pathways to move Eastern Kentucky forward, empowering individuals to achieve economic self-sufficiency while contributing to thriving communities: One person at a time, one family at a time, one community at a time.

For 15 years, Shaping Our Appalachian Region has led the movement to strengthen Eastern Kentucky's economy and empower its people. Founded as a bipartisan nonprofit and powered by a team that lives here, we understand both the challenges and the potential of Eastern Kentucky. We're solving problems from the inside out: Building partnerships, programs, and systems that create lasting opportunities across all 54 counties.

Our work brings together a willing, trained workforce and employers who need them, ensuring both people and businesses succeed and communities grow.

**Talent:** We prepare people for meaningful careers through skills training, personalized coaching, and wraparound support. Our programs connect individuals with stability services and provide tailored job placement through our membership program and job board.

**Opportunity:** We build strong relationships with local and national employers, helping them find the right talent quickly and support their workforce for long-term success. We assist companies with training and retention strategies that benefit both employees and businesses.

**Community:** We strengthen communities by supporting infrastructure, tourism, and local partnerships that make Eastern Kentucky a place people want to live, work, and invest in. We help tech and tech-enabled businesses launch, scale, and grow, creating new opportunities across the region.

## Purpose of this Request for Qualifications

Shaping Our Appalachian Region is seeking to establish a qualified vendor list for professional services in support of upcoming events, campaigns, and multimedia initiatives across our programs.

1. Vendors should [fill out the application form](#) no later than January 16, 2026.
2. Our team will evaluate submissions for creative excellence, demonstrated experience, and alignment with our mission.
3. If selected, you'll be added to our approved vendor list and may receive invitations to bid on project-specific RFPs across our events, campaigns, and multimedia initiatives.

We are accepting qualifications for the following service categories:

- Digital and Email Marketing
- Event Production and Technical Services
- Livestreaming and Event Broadcast Services
- Photography
- Print Services
- Promotional Items
- Video Production
- Web and Digital Design Services

## Submission Requirements

Interested vendors are required to [submit an application](#) that includes:

1. Business Information
  - a. Business Entity Name
  - b. Service Category
  - c. Mailing Address
  - d. County
  - e. Years in Business
1. **Leadership and Team Overview:** Brief bios of the owner(s), senior leadership, or creative team.
2. **Capabilities and Equipment:** Overview of available equipment, software, and technical capabilities relevant to your service category
3. **Portfolio and Samples of Work:** Up to three (3) samples of previous work (links, digital portfolio, or attached files accepted)

## Submission Instructions

Submissions will be accepted [through this application form](#).

The submission deadline is Friday, January 16, 2026 at 5 p.m. ET

Questions or additional details may be submitted to:

Candice Champlin

Event Coordinator

(606) 262-2376

[candice.champlin@soar-ky.org](mailto:candice.champlin@soar-ky.org)

## Evaluation and Next Steps

1. The Shaping Our Appalachian Region team will review your application for demonstrated experience, creative excellence, and a clear understanding of our mission.
2. Our team will reach out with vendor-specific opportunities if and when they become available in 2026.
3. Vendors will be able to apply for opportunities through a formal RFP process.