

SOAR SUMMIT

Presented by  Appalachian Regional Commission  Appalachian Wireless
An East Kentucky Network Company

Download this agenda [here](#).

DAY 1 Wednesday, October 7th, 2026

4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Corbin Arena
Registration Sponsored by 

6:00 p.m. Corbin Arena
2026 SOAR Summit Kickoff Sponsored by 

Kick off the SOAR Summit with networking, great food, and drinks on the Arena Floor of the Corbin Arena.

- Cash bar will be available, sponsored by **MakeMyMove**

7:00 p.m. Corbin Arena
SOAR Inspires Awards Sponsored by 

DAY 2 Thursday, October 8th, 2026

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Corbin Arena
Registration Sponsored by 

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Corbin Arena
EKY Experience Exhibit Hall Hours Sponsored by 

8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Corbin Arena
Breakfast Sponsored by   **FNB**  

9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Corbin Center

FOCUS Breakout Session

- Beyond Recruitment: Growing Businesses From Within
- Beyond the Tool: AI as a Strategic Collaborator for Community Leadership
- Building Access to Quality Child Care Through Public-Private Partnerships

TenTalk Session

- Kentucky's Rural Health Transformation: Building Healthier Communities
- Beyond Treatment: Building a Recovery Ecosystem

10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Corbin Center

FOCUS Breakout Session

- Beyond Broadband: Turning Infrastructure into Opportunity
- ICC Launch + Leap: What Happens When a County Invests in Its Own People
- EKY Remote: Meet Those Who Made the Move
- Making Work Work: Removing Barriers, Building Opportunity

TenTalk Session

- Catalyzing Growth: The Power of 1% Loan
- Offering the World Appalachia's Comparative Advantage

11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Corbin Arena

Lunch Sponsored by  
Enjoy music from the Pike County Central High School Jazz Band during lunch on the KCTCS Stage at the Corbin Arena.

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Corbin Center

FOCUS Workshops

- From Stereotype to Strategy: The Power of Regional Storytelling
- Nuclear Ready: Positioning Your Community for the Next Generation of Energy Opportunities
- AI in Action: Building Your Organization's First AI Toolkit

To learn more about our FOCUS Breakout and Tentalk Sessions, [visit our website](#).

4:30 p.m.  **KCTCS Stage @ Corbin Arena**

2026 SOAR Summit EKY: In Motion

Opening Plenary

- **Speakers**
 - Dr. Reed Adkins | Executive Director | Shaping Our Appalachian Region
 - Suzie Razmus | Mayor | City of Corbin
 - Jennifer Hancock, Mike White and Terry Gray | 1 Clay County
 - Angelia Foster | President | Baptist Health Corbin
- **Featured Speakers**
 - Lindy Casebier | Secretary | Kentucky Tourism, Arts, and Heritage Cabinet
 - Robert Schena | Chairman, CEO, and Co-Founder | Rajant Corporation
 - Erik Hubbard | Founder and Executive Director | Backroads of Appalachia
 - Danielle Harmon | Senior Director of Community, Health, and Impact | Appalachian Regional Healthcare
 - Tony Damron | Executive Vice President and Chief Information Officer | Pikeville Medical Center
 - & more to be confirmed soon!

6:30 p.m. Downtown Corbin

2026 SOAR Summit Reception Sponsored by 

DAY 3 Friday, October 9th, 2026

9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Corbin Arena
Registration Sponsored by 

8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Corbin Arena
Breakfast Sponsored by   

9:30 a.m. to Noon  **KCTCS Stage @ Corbin Arena**

Principal Officer Plenary Session

- Sponsored by 
- **Featured Speakers**
 - Congressman Hal Rogers | Dean of the US House of Representatives | SOAR Co-Principal Officer
 - Governor Andy Beshear | SOAR Co-Principal Officer
 - *Gayle Manchin | Federal Co-Chair | Appalachian Regional Commission
 - Robert Stivers | President | Kentucky Senate
 - **Keynote Speaker**
 - John Sitalides | Geopolitical Strategist | Trilogy Advisors LLC
 - **Speakers**
 - Dr. Quentin Young | President | University of the Cumberlands
 - Dr. Ryan Quarles | President | Kentucky Community and Technical College System
 - *Donovan Blackburn | President and Chief Executive Officer | Pikeville Medical Center
 - Mike Johnson | Chief Executive Officer | Appalachian Wireless
 - Rob Edwards | Vice President and Chief Strategy and Government Affairs Officer | University of Kentucky and UK HealthCare
 - Dr. Reed Adkins | Executive Director | SOAR
 - Kimberly McCann | Chair | SOAR Executive Board
 - **National Anthem, My Old Kentucky Home, and America the Beautiful**
 - Cumberland Voices | University of the Cumberlands
 - University of the Cumberlands ROTC
 - & more to be confirmed soon!

*Remarks will be delivered via pre-recorded video

Building Eastern Kentucky Together.