

Kentuckians who care about the future of southern and eastern Kentucky are responding to the call from Gov. Steve Beshear, U.S. Representative Hal Rogers and other leaders to participate in an effort to focus on the future success of the region.

Already 600 people have registered for the Dec. 9 summit titled 'Shaping our Appalachian Region' (SOAR), to be held at the Eastern Kentucky Exposition Center in Pikeville.

"We know the people who live and work hard in this region are eager to help shape its economic future, and to provide the ideas needed to overcome both short-term and long-term challenges," Gov. Beshear said. "So this overwhelming response is gratifying, but not surprising."

Registration remains open for anyone who wants to contribute a voice or vision for strategies to transform the region, build on its strengths and overcome obstacles to success. The summit is open to any Kentuckian with an interest in participating, and is completely free. Register at <http://kydlgweb.ky.gov>