What is a community foundation?

A community foundation is a community partner that creates a better future for all by pursuing the community’s greatest opportunities and addressing the most critical challenges, inclusively uniting people, institutions and resources from throughout the community, and producing significant, widely shared and lasting results. Community foundations are institutions that can serve as anchors for equitable economic transition; community dialogue among intergenerational leadership; advocates for policy change; and powerful collaborators for leveraging resources.

What is the Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky?

Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky is uniquely positioned to act as intermediary in implementation of one of the primary SOAR strategies – to create or expand a network of regional accredited community foundations that will promote private and local philanthropy, attract private foundation funds and build public/private partnerships for economic development, initiatives and projects that will be critical to rebuilding and diversifying the Appalachian economy. As SOAR provides options and opportunities for good investments, a network of regional accredited community foundations can provide the institutional infrastructure necessary to attract and retain private funds, as well as an increased capacity to leverage other resources.

How does the Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky relate to SOAR?

The Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky’s efforts to promote regional community philanthropy embodies not just the spirit of SOAR, but actually gets to the core of what it will take to make all of our efforts successful – engaging people with their time, talent and financial resources to envision our new future, plan strategically and regionally, and then prioritize and implement these strategies over time through an increased capacity to leverage funding with new, permanent, and local resources.

What does the future hold?

The SOAR Community Development Philanthropy Initiative will build upon existing community and economic development strategies by engaging people with their time, talent and financial resources to envision our future as local communities working together towards a common vision. Through training and technical assistance provided to area development districts, communities will gain skills and capacity to plan strategically within the regional framework of SOAR, and then prioritize and implement those strategies over time utilizing locally controlled permanent, philanthropic funds and leveraging additional resources.

Building capacity in communities that will result in the ability for long-term, local engagement in community development philanthropy will be critical to the success of creating structures for capturing community wealth that will otherwise be lost. Giving communities the tools and resources they need to create a strong network of anchor institutions that can host unrestricted permanent funds with community control will serve to shore up and ground the local capacity required to achieve the overarching vision of SOAR.