



ACCESS SSI BENEFITS QUICKLY

25 states and more than 80 communities have already participated!

SSI/SSDI Outreach Access & Recovery (SOAR) is designed to help states and communities increase access to SSI and SSDI for people who experience long-term homelessness, especially those who have mental illnesses and/or co-occurring substance use disorders.



SSI/SSDI Outreach,
Access and Recovery

SOAR Facts:

- Only 10–15% of the homeless population is typically approved for SSI on initial application
- Appeals can take years, and many eligible people give up without an appeal

States that have implemented SOAR's critical components report SSI approval rates of 60–95% on initial applications in 87 days on average.

Let Us Help...

- Plan an SSI outreach project
- Conduct train-the-trainer programs
- Train direct service staff using SAMHSA's *Stepping Stones to Recovery* curriculum
- Provide ongoing support and technical assistance

SOAR Facilitated Planning Session

Develop an SSI outreach project in your state or community

- Encourage collaboration with SSA, DDS, and health care providers
- Develop strategies for practice and staffing
- Address staff training needs
- Track outcomes for sustainability
- Identify leadership roles

Avoid Appeals!

- ✓ Focus on the initial application
- ✓ Improve access to housing, treatment and other services



Training

Offer a state or community-based train-the-trainer program or a standard training using SAMHSA's *Stepping Stones to Recovery* curriculum. Training is appropriate for:

- Community mental health providers
- Continuum of Care providers
- Primary care providers (including Health Care for the Homeless programs)
- State/county social services benefits staff
- Corrections agency staff

SOAR and the *Stepping Stones to Recovery* curriculum were developed for the Federal government by Policy Research Associates to help case managers assist homeless adults with serious mental illnesses and co-occurring disorders with the application process for Social Security disability benefits. Obtaining SSI / SSDI is among the first steps toward recovery and stability for many people experiencing homelessness.

For information & pricing, contact: Policy Research Associates, Delmar, NY 12054

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Policy Research Associates, Inc. — a national leader in mental health services research, practice, and policy since 1987— works with states and communities nationwide to guide and improve policy and practice.