



# SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR)

SAMHSA's SOAR program increases access to Social Security disability benefits for eligible children and adults who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and have a serious mental illness, medical impairment, and/or co-occurring substance use disorder.

## About the Program

The SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) program, funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), is a national program designed to increase access to the disability income benefit programs administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA).

Many people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness also suffer from disabling mental illnesses, co-occurring substance use, trauma, and/or other medical issues. Accessing the income and health care benefits that SSI/SSDI provides can be a critical first step on the road to recovery. However, their circumstances can impede access to these benefits.

- SSA communicates mainly by mail, which is a challenge when one does not have a permanent, reliable address.
- People who are experiencing homelessness often have sporadic medical care, making it difficult to access medical records to document a disability.
- Symptoms can interfere with cognitive functioning, making it difficult to navigate a complex system.

## SOAR Project Lead

Serves as a lead SOAR Coordinator for LHC and will work to increase SOAR implementation statewide through sub recipient providers located in each of Louisiana's Continuums of Care.

## Learn more about SOAR

- <https://www.samhsa.gov/soar>
- <https://www.samhsa.gov/homelessness-programs-resources/grant-programs-services/soar>
- <https://soarworks.samhsa.gov/>