



SOAR Ohio Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. What is SOAR Ohio Project

The SOAR Ohio project is designed to move Ohio's most vulnerable populations into better housing opportunities. We work on behalf of disabled individuals who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, preparing to exit institutions and/or a diagnosis of a severe and persistent mental illness by helping them expedite the SSI/SSDI (Supplemental Security Income/Social Security Disability Insurance) application process. Once they receive their benefits, clients can access safe, decent, affordable housing.

2. What is SOAR?

SSI/SSDI, Outreach, Access and Recovery is a program designed to increase access to SSI/SSDI for eligible participants who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and have a mental illness, medical impairment, and/or a co-occurring substance use disorder.

3. How would it benefit my agency?

This would increase stability for the individuals you serve. Not only does this increase their income but link them to Medicaid all leading towards increases in future housing stability for all populations of individuals.

4. What if the person recently got diagnosed, will they be eligible for the SOAR Ohio Project?

Yes, if the person has a diagnosis that is expected to last over 12 months then they will be SOAR eligible.

5. How long will it take to hear a decision on the SSI/SSDI application?

Ohio is averaging 82 days to hear a decision.

6. What if the person started out homeless but was housed prior to the referral?

A formally homeless individual has 90 days after signing of the lease to complete an application or if they are living in a temporary housing situation and has no income.

7. What if a person is staying in a permanent supportive housing unit are they eligible?

Yes, the person is eligible if they are at imminent risk of homelessness, such as their rent may be covered but the tenant may be responsible for the utilities and without income that could get them evicted. Also, their diagnosis is a factor. It's kind of loose around this so it would be more situational of the client's circumstances.

SOAR Ohio Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) continued



8. How do find a SOAR specialist in my area?

The community partner agencies who have taken external referrals. Their focus moving forward will be to serve the clients most in need within their perspective community settings. Please reach out to the State Lead and program coordinator, Amy Lamerson, MSW with questions.

amylamerson@cohhio.org

9. How do I or someone from my organization get trained?

You can sign up and complete a free training through soarworks.prainc.com or by using this link [SOAR Works](#) .This also qualifies for 20 hours of Social Work CEU's. You will then need to complete a one-day SOAR Ohio training to learn the Ohio specific practices.

10. Will I be eligible for Technical Assistance if I complete training?

Yes, COHHIO provides Technical Assistance for individuals who have passed the online course and completed the one-day Ohio training through COHHIO. You will be eligible for ongoing training and TA.

For all other questions please reach out to the SOAR Ohio Project Coordinator:

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