



SOARing Together
Series 2: Letter 4 2021
National Social Security Month

Happy Social Security Administration Month!!!

Since 1935, Social Security has worked to meet the ever-changing needs for individuals across our country. From programs, including Retirement, Social Security Disability Insurance, Supplemental Security Income, Medicare and even SOAR, Social Security is here to offer support through life's journey. During the month of April, SSA is honored for the dedicated services they have provided for over 80 years. So, go ahead and give an extra thank you this month to your local field office SOAR contact!

With this being SS month, I want to again touch base on the importance of establishing a strong network with your local field office. Having a connection with a local SSA worker is a great help when completing, submitting and getting information on your claim before, during and after the application process. After the Ohio certification training, you should have received the contact information of the SSA office for your county/area. If you have not already done so, please reach out and introduce yourself to that contact. Also, I encourage you to establish a routine to meet with them to submit and discuss applications. There will be some positive changes coming to the submission process and it would be an advantage as a specialist having a relationship with your local office.

Over the next several weeks, you will be getting information on steps involved in SSA setting up secured email partnership with third party organizations and agencies. (SOAR is third party). Once set up as a secure partner, emails to and from that third party organization will be secure and we can feel confident if sharing Personally Identifiable Information (PII) – the email will be automatically encrypted in transit. This process will not be completed through by the SOAR specialist, but will go through a technical contact at your agency who is capable of making changes to the mail relays for the domain. This process is free, needs no new equipment and will not interfere with your agency's current email domain. Several SOAR agencies have already used this process and it is going great! Look for more information, soon.

This past year has truly been a stressful time, as well as a time to change, grow and explore "outside the box". SSA has also made the same adjustments to stay safe, to serve individuals needing assistance, and continue to support our efforts as SOAR Ohio Specialists. I have enclosed some information that explains some ways SS has demonstrated their commitment in providing needed services and access during the pandemic.

"A nation's strength lies in the well-being of its people. The Social Security program plays an important part in providing for families, children, and older persons in time of stress, but it cannot remain static. Changes in our population, in the working habits and in our standard of living require constant revision." John F Kennedy

SOARing Together,
Candace Talty, AAS, BASW
SOAR Ohio and HNHF Coordinator