



## SOARing Together

Series 2: Letter 9 2021

Homelessness/Housing Categories

We learned in the very first class of the SOAR online training course that one of the core foundations of the SOAR model is serving homeless or at risk for homelessness individuals with mental or physical impairment <https://soarworks.samhsa.gov/article/what-soar>. We can also all agree that an individual living in a shelter, outside or in a car, couch surfing or has no permanent housing would clearly be considered homeless. However, as we screen for SOAR applicants, we may encounter clients that have been housed but are still consider homeless or at risk of homelessness according to the SOAR definition of homeless <https://soarworks.samhsa.gov/article/definitions-homelessness>. It is important to understand that these individuals are still eligible for our services through SOAR. Here are a few examples of “at risk” or “housed” individuals appropriate for SOAR:

- Rapid Rehousing (RRH) - Homelessness Prevention (HP) - Housing and Urban Development (HUD) vouchers
- Housing First <https://endhomelessness.org/resource/housing-first/>
- Transitional Housing <https://www.homelesshub.ca/solutions/housing-accommodation-and-supports/transitional-housing>
- Group homes – adult or children
- Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) <https://endhomelessness.org/ending-homelessness/solutions/permanent-supportive-housing/>
- Institutions – Nursing Homes - Hospitals
- Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) - Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)
- Foster Care
- Housing Now for Homeless Families (HNHF) <https://cohhio.org/housing-now-for-homeless-families-program/>
- Annual income is below 30 percent of household area median income (AMI) <https://metro council.org/Handbook/Files/Resources/Fact-Sheet/HOUSING/Area-Median-Income-and-Housing-Affordability.aspx>
- Fleeing Domestic Violence
- Recent Housing Instability

I encourage you to review the SOARWorks webpage <https://soarworks.samhsa.gov/> for additional information on defining homelessness.

Here is a follow up on the September 10<sup>th</sup> SOAR Ohio Team Quarterly meeting, about the housing categories in the OAT database system. (Click link for OAT log in page <https://soartrack.samhsa.gov/index.php>.) It can be easy to recognize some categories, but others need to be thought through more carefully. To collect accurate data for the demographics portion of OAT, we want to make sure we consider all the options for housing categories at the time of client’s entry to the program. SOAR TA Center offered a few suggestions for housing categories:

- Housing First or Permanent Supportive Housing or HUD vouchers if RRH - HP - VA - SSVF - subsidized housing
- Permanent Supportive Housing if Adult Care facility or other facility that is not an institution
- Single Room Occupancy (SRO)/Boarding House or Residential Treatment if a Recovery Home - Group home
- Own or someone else’s apt, room or house if couch surfing - living rent free in someone’s home doubled up
- Transitional if exiting jail/prison - hospital – nursing home – mental health facility

These are just a few examples to help you critically and creatively think of which housing categories best describes your client’s information. Any questions on SOAR’s definition of homelessness or the OAT housing categories, please feel free to reach out.

*“...You have to take a leap if you want to **SOAR**” -Cory Booker*

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

SOAR Ohio Local Lead

**COHHIO**

175 S Third St. Suite 580

Columbus, Ohio 43215

P:614.280.1984 ext. 137

F:614.463.1060

[candacetalty@cohhio.org](mailto:candacetalty@cohhio.org)

Website: [www.cohhio.org](http://www.cohhio.org)