



## SOAR Ohio Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### 1. 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. Highly trained SOAR Specialists assist from start to finish and represent the applicant through the entire application process.

### 2. What is SOAR Ohio?

SOAR Ohio is designed to move Ohio's most vulnerable populations into better housing opportunities and access other needed recourses. SOAR Ohio providers 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.

### 3. How would it benefit my agency?

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

- Learning skills to complete quality applications and forms that are approved on **initial** submission
- Direct connection with local SSA work and the SOAR/homeless adjudicating unit- No one waiting hours on the phone or at the offices
- Decision on claims in about 90 days
- Training, technical assistance and consistent support
- Potential to earn 20 C.E.U.'s for free with completion of training
- Notifications to changes in SSA and procedures before general public
- Most important getting income stability to your clients!



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

Yes, if the person has a medically determinable 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 90 days or less to receive the official SSA 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.

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

The community partner agencies are focused on serving the clients most in need within their perspective community settings. Please reach out to SOAR Ohio State Lead team with questions on how to get involved with SOAR Ohio to serve your client benefit needs. Please reach out to us here at COHHIO as we are the SOAR Ohio State Lead team and can answer questions on registering for the free SOAR certification course work.

The SOAR (**SSI/SSDI Outreach, Assess and Recovery**) Team here at COHHIO provides training, technical assistance and support to all SOAR Specialists throughout Ohio. Social Service and community workers are trained to use evidence-based best practices and methodology to complete expedited disability applications on behalf of the client. Specialists represent clients during the entire process of the application process. SOAR is a truly beneficial resource for agencies serving some of Ohio's most vulnerable populations

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

You can sign up and complete a free training through [soarworks.prainc.com](http://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 four-hour virtual SOAR Ohio training to learn the Ohio-specific practices.

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

Yes, the SOAR Ohio State Lead team provides training and technical assistance for individuals who have passed the online course and completed the four-hour virtual Ohio training through COHHIO.

For all other questions please reach out to the SOAR Ohio Team listed below:

Candace Talty, BASW  
SOAR Ohio and HNHF Director  
SOAR Ohio State 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)

Websites: [www.cohhio.org](http://www.cohhio.org)  
<https://cohhio.org/programs/soar-ohio/>  
<https://cohhio.org/housing-now-for-homeless-families-program/>

Erica Copley, BSW, LSW  
SOAR Ohio T&TA Coordinator

**COHHIO**

175 S. Third Street, Suite 580  
Columbus, OH 43215  
Phone: 614.280.1984 ext. 142

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