

SOAR WORKS

SOAR Enhances Recovery by Supporting Our Veterans

What is the Need?

37,252

In January 2020, **37,252** Veterans were **homeless** on a single night during the Point in Time (PIT) count. In January 2021, 19,750 Veterans were experiencing sheltered homelessness, staying in emergency shelters, safe havens, or transitional housing. An unsheltered count was not conducted in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Half of Veterans experiencing homelessness have **serious mental illness** and over half have other health issues.

High prevalence of traumatic brain injury (**TBI**), post-traumatic stress disorder (**PTSD**), and **sexual trauma** among Veterans experiencing homelessness contributes to difficulty in maintaining employment and housing.

Importance of SSI/SSDI for Veterans and their Families

Income

Veterans can receive SSI/SSDI in conjunction with, or as an alternative to, VA disability benefits and employment. Children in Veteran households who have serious mental or physical health conditions and have low income and resources may be eligible for SSI.

Health Insurance

Veterans can use Medicaid and Medicare health benefits that come with SSI/SSDI to supplement VA health services.

Housing Stability

The right combination of income supports (SSA benefits, VA benefits, employment) can help Veterans obtain and maintain housing stability.



Federal Partnerships Supporting SOAR

In February 2022, the VA released an [updated memorandum](#) that directed VA staff working in homeless programs to identify a plan for connecting eligible Veterans to SSI/SSDI using the SOAR model. This memo supports ongoing federal efforts between the VA and SSA to allow federal VA staff to serve as SSA-1696 Appointed Representatives, gather required documentation, and complete SSI/SSDI applications using the SOAR model. VA staff using the SOAR model should first complete the SOAR Online Course and connect with their state and local SOAR leads.

SOAR Implementation: Veterans

4,000

 Veterans have been assisted with their applications using SOAR

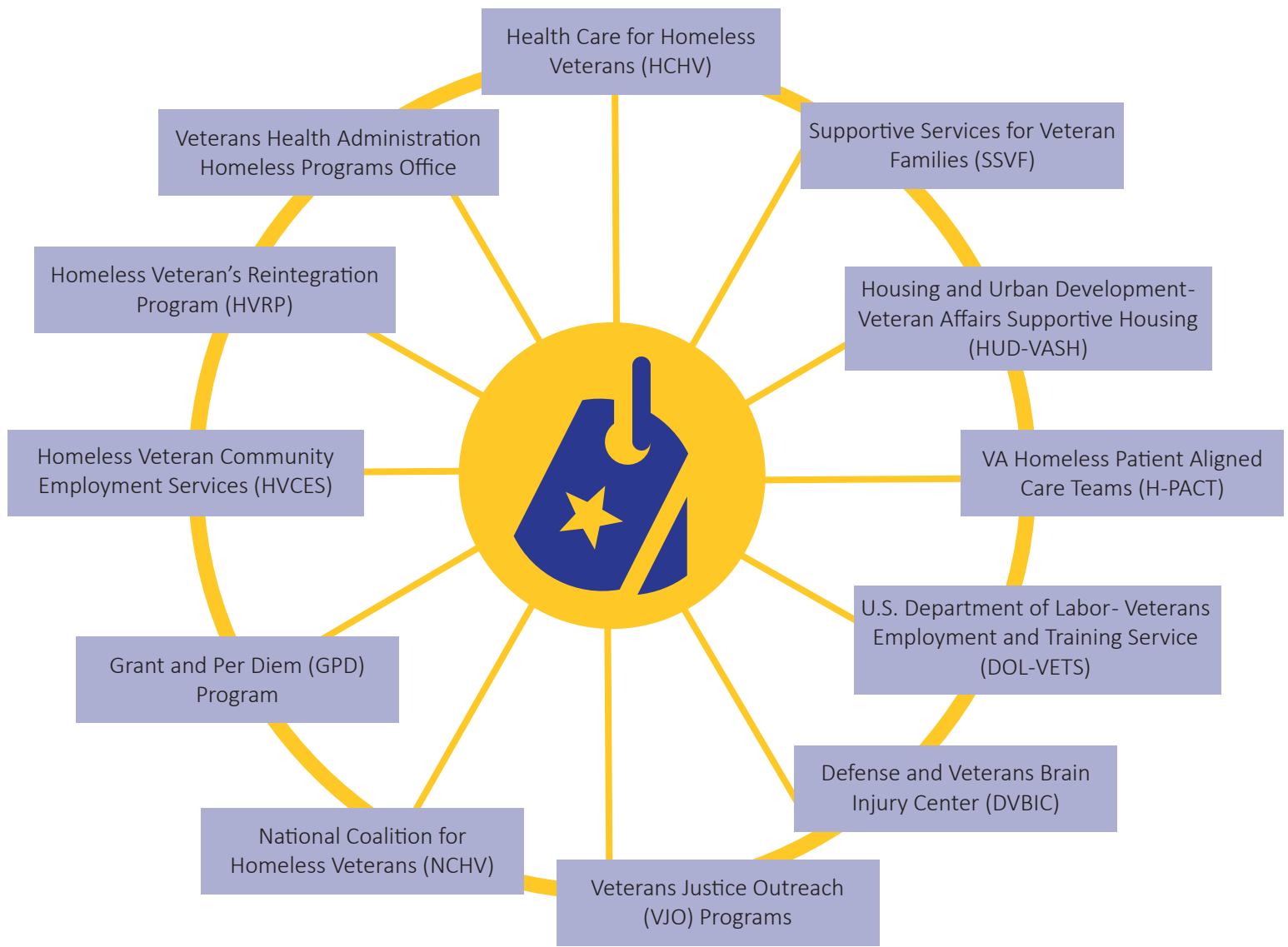
- In the June 2019 VA, HUD, and United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) Community Planning Survey, 202 out of 366 respondents (**55 percent**) indicated that they are using the **SOAR model** in their HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) Coordinated Entry System to help Veterans with disabling conditions access SSI/SSDI. An additional 77 respondents (**21 percent**) are in the process of implementing the **SOAR model** to serve Veterans
- The notice of funding for SSVF grantees includes the expectation that grantees will use the SOAR program through community linkages or staff training



SSA Fast Track Programs

100% Permanent & Total Veterans Initiative
Wounded Warriors

VA Program Partners and Other National Veteran Programs



SOAR and VA Products

**SSVF and SOAR
Integration Toolkit**

**SSI/SSDI and
Employment
Benefit/Income
Calculators**

**Connecting Veterans
to Social Security
Disability Benefits: A
Key Component in
Ending Veteran
Homelessness**

**SOAR Works to End
Veteran Homelessness:
VA Caseworker's Guide**

**SSA and VA
Disability Benefits:
Tips for Veterans**