



Housing & Homeless Services

SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR)

Quarterly Training

FY 2024

Introduction

The MDHHS Housing and Homeless Services team, in partnership with the SOAR TA Center, is hosting quarterly SOAR training for Michigan in FY 2024. Trainings will be organized into four cohorts, A through D, with specific schedules. Training is virtual and consists of the SOAR Online Course followed by a SOAR Online Course Refresher & Michigan Fundamentals Session, as well as regular group check-ins throughout the process.

Individuals that pass the SOAR Online Course and complete a SOAR Online Course Review & Michigan Fundamentals Session will be designated as a Certified SOAR Practitioner in Michigan.

For questions or more information, please contact:

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Training Highlights

- A step-by-step explanation of the SSI/SSDI application and disability determination process.
- Strategies for working with individuals experiencing or at-risk of homelessness, and who have serious mental illness and co-occurring disorders — only a fraction of this population receives the benefits to which they are entitled.
- Exercises and worksheets provide practical application tools.
- Learn how to track outcomes of your SOAR applications in the Online Application Tracking (OAT) system.
- Understand what the SOAR process looks like in Michigan.

Training Expectations & Requirements

- Individuals must intend to become a Certified Michigan SOAR Practitioner. SOAR practitioners will assist adults (age 18+) who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and have serious mental illness, medical impairment, and/or a co-occurring substance use disorder to apply for Social Security Administration's disability programs, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI).
- Individuals must complete registration with MDHHS Housing and Homeless Services to participate in a training cohort.
 - **A registration link will be distributed via email prior to each training cohort.**
 - **Registration will include a sign-off acknowledging that the individual's employer/supervisor has agreed that SOAR activities will be allowable job duties for the individual's position.**

- Individuals must pass the SOAR Online Course and complete a SOAR Online Course Review & Michigan Fundamentals Session in order to be designated as a Certified SOAR Practitioner in Michigan.
- Once trained it is expected that Certified SOAR Practitioners will complete at least 3 SOAR applications per year; and Maintain an initial application approval rate of at least 60%.

Training Cohort Schedules

Training schedules corresponding to each cohort are outlined in the table below.

	Cohort A	Cohort B	Cohort C	Cohort D
	Dates	Dates	Dates	Dates
Registration Opens	Oct. 2, 2023	Jan 2, 2024	Apr 1, 2024	Jul 1, 2024
Registration Closes	Oct 26, 2023	Jan 25, 2024	April 28, 2024	July 25, 2024
Cohort Begins	Oct. 30, 2023	Jan 29, 2024	April 29, 2024	July 29, 2024
Cohort Online Course Orientation (via webinar)	Oct. 30, 2023 10:00 a.m.	Jan 29, 2024 10:00 a.m.	April 29, 2024 10:00 a.m.	July 29, 2024 10:00 a.m.
Online Course: Classes 1 & 2	Oct 30-Nov 10, 2023	Jan 29- Feb 9, 2024	April 29-May 10, 2024	July 29 - Aug 9, 2024
Cohort Online Course Check-in #1 (via webinar)	Nov 8, 2023 10:00 a.m.	Feb 7, 2024 10:00 a.m.	May 8, 2024 10:00 a.m.	Aug 7, 2024 10:00 a.m.
Online Course: Classes 3 & 4	Nov 13-17, 2023	Feb 12-16, 2024	May 13-17, 2024	Aug 12-16, 2024
Cohort Online Course Check-in #2 (via webinar)	Nov 15, 2023 1:00 p.m.	Feb 14, 2024 1:00 p.m.	May 15, 2024 1:00 p.m.	Aug 14, 2024 1:00 p.m.
Online Course: Classes 5, 6 & 7	Nov 20-24, 2023	Feb 19-Feb 23, 2024	May 20-24, 2024	Aug 19-23, 2024
Cohort Online Course Check-in #3 - Final (via webinar)	Nov 22, 2023 10:00 a.m.	Feb 21, 2024 10:00 a.m.	May 22, 2024 10:00 a.m.	Aug 21, 2024 10:00 a.m.
Deadline to submit Online Course materials for review.	Dec.4, 2023	Feb 26, 2024	May 28, 2024	Aug 29, 2024
Revise and resubmit any online course materials as requested.	Dec 4 -Dec 14, 2023	Feb 26-March 7, 2024	May 28-Jun 6, 2024	Aug 29- Sept 12, 2024
SOAR Online Course Review & Michigan Fundamentals Session (via webinar)	Dec 14, 2023 10:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.	Mar 7, 2024 10:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.	Jun 6, 2024 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Sep 12, 2024 10:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.
Cohort Ends	Dec 14, 2023	Mar 7, 2024	Jun 6, 2024	Sep 12, 2024