

2022 SAMHSA SOAR DECEMBER E-NEWS

Celebrate the SAMHSA SOAR 2022 Super Stars!

We celebrate everyone who contributes to the impact of SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) programs across the country, but we want to give a special shout-out to some SOAR Super Stars! In FY2022, **Wyoming** increased both the number of applications submitted and its approval rate, and **Colorado** increased its approval rate significantly. **Arkansas** had a substantial increase in capacity. And in a year where average days to decision increased nationally, **North Carolina**, **Wyoming**, **Washington, DC**, and **South Carolina** saw a decrease! **Florida** and **Colorado** submitted quality child Supplemental Security Income (SSI) applications, and **Oklahoma** had a large number of successful appeals!



Read more about successful collaborations, including new work with Medicaid in **Idaho**, medical respite programs in **Nevada**, funding successes in **Texas** and **Connecticut**, and systems-level supports in **New Mexico** and **Missouri**, in the *2022 SOAR Outcomes Issue Brief*!

[Access the Brief](#)

December Spotlight

Recognizing Homeless Persons' Memorial Day

This year's *Homeless Persons' Memorial Day* will be held on December 21, 2022. The event is held every year on the winter solstice, the longest night of the year. The day honors those who have died on the streets this past year and strengthens our resolve to work toward a world where no one is lost to homelessness. We encourage you to explore events and opportunities to observe National Homeless Person's Memorial Day in your own community.



See How SOAR Works



SOAR Webinar: Documenting Long COVID for Disability Determination

December 8, 2022, 3:00–4:30 p.m. ET

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention refers to long COVID as "a broad range of symptoms (physical and mental) that develop during or after COVID-19 infection which continue for weeks, months, or longer and are not explained by an alternative diagnosis." While SSA is considering new guidance on long COVID, this webinar will share current information on how COVID-19 has impacted the usual disability process so that SOAR practitioners can understand how to best document these claims.

This webinar will include presentations from Disability Determination Services (DDS) staff on how they are evaluating claims with a COVID-19 impairment and how SOAR providers can help with providing documentation, including both physical and mental health symptoms. We will also hear from a SOAR Provider and a SOAR Beneficiary about their experiences documenting and being awarded disability benefits due to the impact of long COVID. Also, panelists will share information on how SOAR practitioners can identify and address issues related to long COVID, including barriers to treatment and symptoms documentation so they can help the DDS examiners connect the dots.

[Register Now](#)



New SOAR Local Leads

In November, the SAMHSA SOAR Technical Assistance (TA) Center held the first SOAR Leadership Academy of the fiscal year in Indianapolis, Indiana. The training welcomed 24 new Local Leads from 15 states. We are excited to welcome our newest SOAR Local Leads and can't wait to see how they grow the SOAR initiative in their states and local communities!



SOAR Tip: Running Reports in OAT

Running reports in the Online Application Tracking (OAT) system is a great way to highlight the effectiveness of SOAR in your agency and community! The system allows the user to run both summary and individual reports. The summary report is an overview of the outcomes of all SOAR-assisted SSI/SSDI claims for a chosen timeframe. The individual report shows the details of each case, including the use of SOAR critical components, whether consultative exams were requested, the outcome of each case, and post-benefit information. Case workers are able to pull reports showing their outcomes, agency leads can run reports for all SOAR-trained case workers in their agency, and SOAR Local Leads can generate reports for their community. To learn more about running reports in OAT, we recommend reviewing the [SOAR OAT Reports Guide](#) [PDF].



SOARing Over Lunch Conference Call

January 10, 2023, 1:00–2:00 p.m. ET

[Add SOARing Over Lunch to Your Calendar](#)

Sharing Our Successes: Perseverance in Michigan

The following SOAR success story was submitted by Mary Granum, a SOAR-trained practitioner working with Michigan Ability Partners in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

John applied for benefits from SSA 5 times in the past 10 years before he was connected with SOAR. He is currently living in shared housing with a Permanent Supportive Housing program. Without any income, he was unable to contribute to his housing expenses, so he has not been able to move up from shared housing into a voucher-supported home of his own.



[Read the Full Story](#)

Partner Updates

Course Rewind: Four Online Courses Available From HHRC

The Homeless and Housing Resource Center (HHRC) offers four free, self-paced online courses accredited for continuing education credits (CEU) by the National Association of Social Workers. The available courses touch on a range of key topics impacting people experiencing homelessness and those who work with them. To explore these learning opportunities, click on the course names below:

- [Introduction to Housing Models, Housing Navigation, and Engagement](#) (4 CEUs)
- [Introduction to Treatment Models and Engagement](#) (3 CEUs)
- [Serious Mental Illness and Homelessness](#) (1.5 CEUs)
- [Whole-Person Care for Opioid Use Disorder](#) (3 CEUs)

SOAR Jobs



- **Florida:** Apalachee Center, Inc., is seeking a full-time SOAR Specialist to provide support and resources through the SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) process to help people successfully obtain SSI/SSDI.
- **Tennessee:** The McNabb Center is seeking a full-time Homeless Case Manager.

Learn more about these positions on the [SOARWorks website](#). Do you have a job posting you would like to share with the SOAR community? Please submit it to the [SAMHSA SOAR TA Center](#)!

More From SOAR





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The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) Technical Assistance (TA) Center is sponsored by SAMHSA, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

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