

SAMHSA SOAR TA Center Resources

Children and Youth

SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) is a national program designed to increase access to the disability income benefit programs administered by the [Social Security Administration \(SSA\)](#) for eligible individuals who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and have a serious mental illness, medical impairment, and/or a co-occurring substance use disorder. SOAR is a key part of a systemic response to ending youth homelessness and represents an innovative model for increasing income and housing stability for youth who have disabling conditions, particularly for those exiting foster care.

For youth with disabling conditions, obtaining SSA disability benefits is an important strategy to address the targeted outcomes [for ending youth homelessness](#) of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH): stable housing, education and employment benefits. Focusing on these outcomes, through a connection with Medicaid and [SSA's work incentives](#), has been shown to improve the health of participants, and provides individuals with the opportunity to live full and productive lives. The SAMHSA SOAR TA Center has developed a number of tools and resources available to providers working with children and youth.

Online Resources

Issue Briefs

- Ending Youth Homelessness: Using SOAR to Increase Access to SSA Disability Benefits for Transition Age Youth: <https://soarworks.samhsa.gov/article/using-soar-transition-age>
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for Children: Determining Childhood Disability: <https://soarworks.samhsa.gov/article/ssi-children-determining-disability>

Webinars

- SSI for Children – Engaging Families for Successful SOAR Applications: <https://soarworks.samhsa.gov/article/soar-webinar-ssi-children-engaging-families>

Fact Sheets

- Myth Busting: SSI/SSDI and Transition Age Youth: <https://soarworks.samhsa.gov/article/myth-busting-ssissdi-tay>

SOAR Online Course: Child Curriculum

- The SOAR Online Course: Child Curriculum trains case managers to assist children (under age 18) who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and have a serious mental illness, medical impairment, and/or a co-occurring substance use disorder to apply for Supplemental Security Income (SSI). <https://soarworks.samhsa.gov/course/soar-online-course-child-curriculum>

SOAR Leadership Academy for Child Providers

A three-day SOAR Leadership Academy designed to prepare individuals who work within the child and youth systems of care to serve as local leads within their communities, guide the SOAR initiative and support individuals who complete the SOAR Online Course. Contact the SAMHSA SOAR TA Center liaison in your state for information: <https://soarworks.samhsa.gov/directory>.

SOAR Technical Assistance

The SAMHSA SOAR TA Center offers free, comprehensive guidance from national experts on SOAR implementation for communities working to end homelessness for children and youth.

For more information, contact the SAMHSA SOAR TA Center: soar@prainc.com or 518-439-7415 x2