SOAR Enhances Recovery by Empowering Local Communities

Through the dedicated work of the SAMHSA SOAR TA Center, state and local SOAR Leads, and benefits specialists, the SOAR model has assisted more than 55,210 people* who were experiencing or at risk of homelessness to access SSI/SSDI benefits, enabling these individuals to obtain stable housing, receive mental health and substance abuse treatment, and pursue their vocational goals.

*based on SOAR Outcomes collected as of 6/30/2020

SOAR Collaborates with Communities to Develop Customized Technical Assistance Events

SAMHSA SOAR TA Center staff deliver technical assistance in collaboration with local key stakeholders, using a grassroots approach that empowers each locality to identify its needs and receive individualized assistance to work towards its identified goals.

Since 2009, the SAMHSA SOAR TA Center has delivered on-site technical assistance to over 199 localities across the United States.

Using this approach, the SAMHSA SOAR TA Center has reached an estimated 5,500 local stakeholders across the United States.

SOAR Develops Local Leaders Through the Leadership Academy Model

From 2013 to 2020, the SAMHSA SOAR TA Center facilitated 34 regional and virtual SOAR Leadership Academies.

Leadership Academies have provided skills training and mentorship for 910 SOAR Local Leads from all 50 states and Washington, DC.

These Local Leads have in turn facilitated 143 SOAR Online Course Review Sessions with over 2,100 local participants.

SOAR Works with Local Communities to Develop Funding and Sustainability Plans or Long-Term Success

Communities develop funding and sustainability plans for SOAR assistance, in collaboration with the SAMHSA SOAR TA Center.

Each locality is offered technical assistance and individualized support in identifying funds that could be used for SOAR.

These efforts have resulted in 352 full-time and part-time SOAR positions nationally.

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Through its national reach and extensive network of partnerships, the SAMHSA SOAR TA Center is able to scale federal resources to fit the needs of community members. The SAMHSA SOAR TA Center tracks its impact at the local level to demonstrate the efficacy of its model.

The SOAR Online Courses Provide Standardized Training Enhanced by Individualized Feedback

- Between 2014 and August 2020, over 50,000 people have enrolled and more than 10,800 trainees have successfully completed either the Adult or Child Curriculum of the SOAR Online Course.

- Experts from the SAMHSA SOAR TA Center have completed over 17,000 individual reviews of trainees’ work.

- Each trainee in the SOAR Online Course receives comprehensive, individualized feedback from an expert in the SOAR model.

- The SAMHSA SOAR TA Center shares SOAR-related news, events, and resources with over 39,000 individuals via the SOAR listserv.

The SOAR Online Application Tracking Tool Tracks National Outcomes to Demonstrate Local Impact

- A peer-reviewed evaluation using OAT data found that disability applications that used the SOAR model had a higher likelihood of approval than applications that did not.


All figures are as of 8/31/2020, except where noted.