

SOAR

SSDI/SSI, Outreach, Access, and Recovery

<u>SOAR seeks to end homelessness</u> through increased access to SSI/SSDI income supports, directly addressing SAMHSA's assertion: "To recover, people need a safe stable place to live."

What is SOAR?

SOAR is a national program designed to increase access to SSDI/SSI for eligible *adults and children* who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness **AND** have a serious mental illness, medical impairment and/or co-occurring substance abuse disorder.

Why be a SOAR certified practitioner?

#1: Results

In 2018, the national average approval rate on <u>initial</u> SOAR applications was **65% within 100** days.

#2: \$\$\$ into your community.

In 2018 alone, SSI/SSDI brought at least \$406 million into the nations' economies of the participating localities.

#3: Support

SOAR Navigators will assist with <u>any</u> questions you have. Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) provide **free ongoing technical assistance** through their SOAR TA center.

#4: Training is free

20 CEUs from NASW are available for those who successfully complete the course.

- Once you are a SOAR Certified Practitioner, you will be added to the state-wide list of SOAR certified practitioners which is distributed to the Social Security Administration & Disability Determination Services staff as well as many other community partners.
- To retain certification, you will be expected to complete at least 3 SOAR applications, maintain an initial application approval rating of at least 60%, & participate in Michigan's Annual SOAR Meeting.

Imagine the difference you will make!

How?

Contact your Regional SOAR Navigator:

- ~ Rod DesJardins, Upper Peninsula (Region 1) <u>DesJardinsR1@michigan.gov</u>
- ~ Matt Muszynski, N. Lower Michigan (Regions 2, 3 & 5) MuszynskiM1@michigan.gov
- ~ Alisha Pennington, West Michigan (Regions 4 & 8) PenningtonA@michigan.gov