



Policy Research Associates

# ACCESS SSI BENEFITS QUICKLY

**25 states and more than 80 communities have already participated!**

SSI/SSDI Outreach Access & Recovery (SOAR) is designed to help states and communities increase access to SSI and SSDI for people who experience long-term homelessness, especially those who have mental illnesses and/or co-occurring substance use disorders.



SSI/SSDI Outreach,  
Access and Recovery

## SOAR Facts:

- \* Only 10–15% of the homeless population is typically approved for SSI on initial application
- \* Appeals can take years, and many eligible people give up without an appeal

States that have implemented SOAR's critical components report SSI approval rates of 60–95% on initial applications in 87 days on average.

## Let Us Help...

- Plan an SSI outreach project
- Conduct train-the-trainer programs
- Train direct service staff using SAMHSA's *Stepping Stones to Recovery* curriculum
- Provide ongoing support and technical assistance

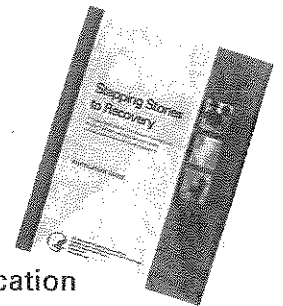
## SOAR Facilitated Planning Session

Develop an SSI outreach project in your state or community

- \* Encourage collaboration with SSA, DDS, and health care providers
- \* Develop strategies for practice and staffing
- \* Address staff training needs
- \* Track outcomes for sustainability
- \* Identify leadership roles

## Avoid Appeals!

- ✓ Focus on the initial application
- ✓ Improve access to housing, treatment and other services



## Training

Offer a state or community-based train-the-trainer program or a standard training using SAMHSA's *Stepping Stones to Recovery* curriculum. Training is appropriate for:

- \* Community mental health providers
- \* Continuum of Care providers
- \* Primary care providers (including Health Care for the Homeless programs)
- \* State/county social services benefits staff
- \* Corrections agency staff

SOAR and the *Stepping Stones to Recovery* curriculum were developed for the Federal government by Policy Research Associates to help case managers assist homeless adults with serious mental illnesses and co-occurring disorders with the application process for Social Security disability benefits. Obtaining SSI / SSDI is among the first steps toward recovery and stability for many people experiencing homelessness.

**For information & pricing, contact:** Policy Research Associates, Delmar, NY 12054

(518) 439.7415 \* [training@prainc.com](mailto:training@prainc.com)

[www.prainc.com/SOAR](http://www.prainc.com/SOAR)

*Policy Research Associates, Inc. — a national leader in mental health services research, practice, and policy since 1987— works with states and communities nationwide to guide and improve policy and practice.*

SOAR: Stepping Stones to Recovery