

*SOAR is a Best Practice supported by  
the Substance Abuse and Mental  
Health Services Administration  
(SAMHSA)*



*For more information on the SOAR  
program through Southwest Iowa  
Disability Services contact  
712-328-5812.*

Information in this brochure obtained  
from the SOAR website located at  
<http://soarworks.prainc.com/>

Brochure date: 7/18/18



SSI/SSDI  
Outreach,  
Access and  
Recovery



Southwest Iowa Mental Health and  
Disability Services Region  
515 5<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Council Bluffs, IA 51503  
712-328-5812

**Many suffer from disabling mental illnesses, co-occurring substance use, trauma, and medical issues that impact their ability to work. The path to recovery can be extraordinarily challenging when one is constantly struggling to meet basic needs. Having income and health care benefits is often a critical first step on the road to recovery.**

**SOAR =  
SSI/SSDI  
Outreach,  
Access &  
Recovery**

Data from the Social Security Administration documents an initial approval rate of 35% for persons who applied for SSI or SSDI in 2017. SOAR National outcomes on initial applications using the SOAR model in 2017 have an average of 64% approval rate and 52% at the appeals stage.

**SOAR Case Manager assists individuals applying for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) who**

- are experiencing or at risk for homelessness
- have serious mental and/or physical illnesses that affect their ability to work

SOAR is a model developed to help those who are experiencing or at-risk for homelessness, so they don't need to fit the literal definition of homeless. At-risk for homelessness can include those who are in transitional housing, couch-surfing, exiting jails/institutions without somewhere to live, and those in permanent supportive housing who are entirely supported by grant funding.

**SOAR Case Manager Functions:**

- Facilitates communication among SSI/SSDI benefit applicants, case managers, Social Security Administration (SSA), Disability Determination Services (DDS), and community providers
- Assumes a central role in gathering complete, targeted, and relevant information for SSA and DDS
- Helps the disability determination process move more smoothly and quickly by providing assistance to SSA and DDS
  - Focus on documenting disability and its effect on functioning via a Medical Summary Report, reducing the need for consultative exams
- Seeks approval on initial applications, avoiding the need for appeals