

New Program for consideration: Partner with LDH in the delivery of Statewide SOAR Case Management services

LHC: Department of Housing and Homelessness Solutions

Background: SSI and SSDI are disability income benefits administered by the Social Security Administration that also provide Medicaid and/or Medicare health insurance to eligible children and adults. The application process for these benefits is complicated and difficult to navigate. SAMHSA developed the SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR) model to address this critical need.

Quick Facts

- Approximately **30%** of adults (general population) who apply are approved upon initial application
- **10-15% of people experiencing or at risk of homelessness** who apply unassisted are approved upon initial application
- For those who have serious mental illness, substance use disorders, or co-occurring disorders, the initial approval rate is even lower
- Appeals take an average of 1 year to complete. Without assistance, appeals are frequently unsuccessful.
- **The 2021 approval rate on initial SOAR assisted applications averages 60% in 155 days**
- In 2021 alone, SSI/SSDI brought at least \$564 million into the economies of participating localities
- SOAR Case Management is one of the best tools in our toolbox to assist people experiencing housing instability or homelessness in increasing their income, making housing stability more achievable.

Proposal: In October of 2021, LDH proposed a partnership with LHC to create a statewide network of SOAR case management, providing access to SSI/SSDI application assistance to underserved rural areas of the state. LDH is requesting the LHC consider the following partnership:

- LDH has secured \$698,550 of funding through the Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG) through SAMHSA to fund this partnership.
- LHC would be entitled to 8% admin
- LHC would contract with local agencies to place SOAR case managers
- LHC would be responsible for fiscal administration
- LDH would fund the following:
 - 9 SOAR case managers (stationed at CoCs/LDH regions throughout the state)
 - 1 LHC Supervisor: Administrative duties
 - SOAR Case Management supervision to be provided by LDH

LDH is requesting that LHC consider this proposal and provide a decision to LDH about whether or not to move forward with the proposal as initially presented, convene for further discussion, or decline to partner.

National Outcomes 2021

The SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) Technical Assistance (TA) Center is funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). SOAR is a national program designed to increase access to the disability income benefit programs administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA) for eligible adults and children who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and have a serious mental illness, medical impairment, and/or a co-occurring substance use disorder.

2021 OUTCOMES

INITIAL APPLICATIONS

APPEALS

APPROVAL RATE

60% 50%

NUMBER OF APPROVALS

3,206 737

AVERAGE DAYS TO DECISION

155 253

CUMULATIVE OUTCOMES

65%

CUMULATIVE INITIAL APPROVAL RATE

50,957

CUMULATIVE INITIAL APPROVALS

8,196

CUMULATIVE APPEAL APPROVALS

59,153

PEOPLE RECEIVING BENEFITS BECAUSE OF SOAR

FINANCIAL OUTCOMES

\$2,895

average general assistance reimbursement

\$38,469

average Medicaid reimbursement per beneficiary

\$6,202

average retroactive back payment

\$564M

brought into the economies of participating localities

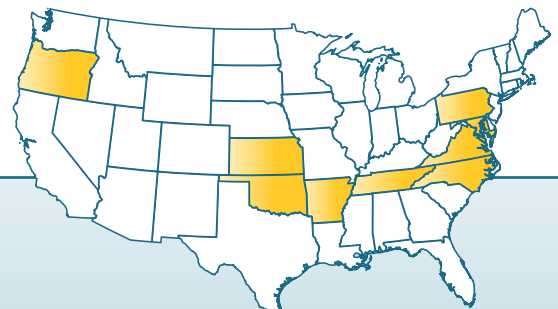
TOP STATES

TOP 10 STATES*

Pennsylvania	Oklahoma
Tennessee	Virginia
Maryland	Washington, DC
Arkansas	Oregon
North Carolina	Kansas

79%

APPROVAL RATE



*Inclusion Criteria: Highest cumulative approval rates on initial application for states with at least 350 cumulative decisions, at least 24 decisions in 2021 (2 per month), and a 2021 approval rate above the national average. Combined, these states had 22,510 decisions.