

SOAR WORKS

SOAR Enhances Recovery by Supporting Our Veterans

What is the Need?

40,056

In January 2017, **40,0456** Veterans were **homeless** on a single night during Point in Time (PIT) count.



Importance of SSI/SSDI for Veterans

Income

Veterans can receive SSI/SSDI in conjunction with, or as an alternative to, VA disability benefits and employment

Health Insurance

Veterans can use Medicaid and Medicare health benefits that come with SSI/SSDI to supplement VA health services

Housing Stability

The right combination of income supports (SSA benefits, VA benefits, employment) for each Veteran can help them obtain and maintain housing stability



Half of Veterans experiencing homelessness have **severe mental illness** and over half other health issues

High prevalence of traumatic brain injury (**TBI**), post-traumatic stress disorder (**PTSD**), and **sexual trauma** among homeless Veterans contributes to difficulty in maintaining employment and housing



SOAR Online Course Participation

In May 2017, the VA released a memorandum that directed VA staff working in homeless programs to identify a plan for how to connect eligible Veterans to SSI/SSDI using the SOAR model. This memo was released in conjunction with federal efforts between the VA and SSA to allow federal VA staff to serve as SSA-1696 Appointed Representatives. As of May 2018, over **1,600 SSVF or VAMC staff** have enrolled in the SOAR Online Course, of which **429 staff** have successfully completed the training. VA-funded staff constitute approximately **eight percent** of all SOAR Online Course successful completions. Of the 18 VISNs, **15 VISNs** have **VAMC staff** trained in SOAR.

SSVF Stats

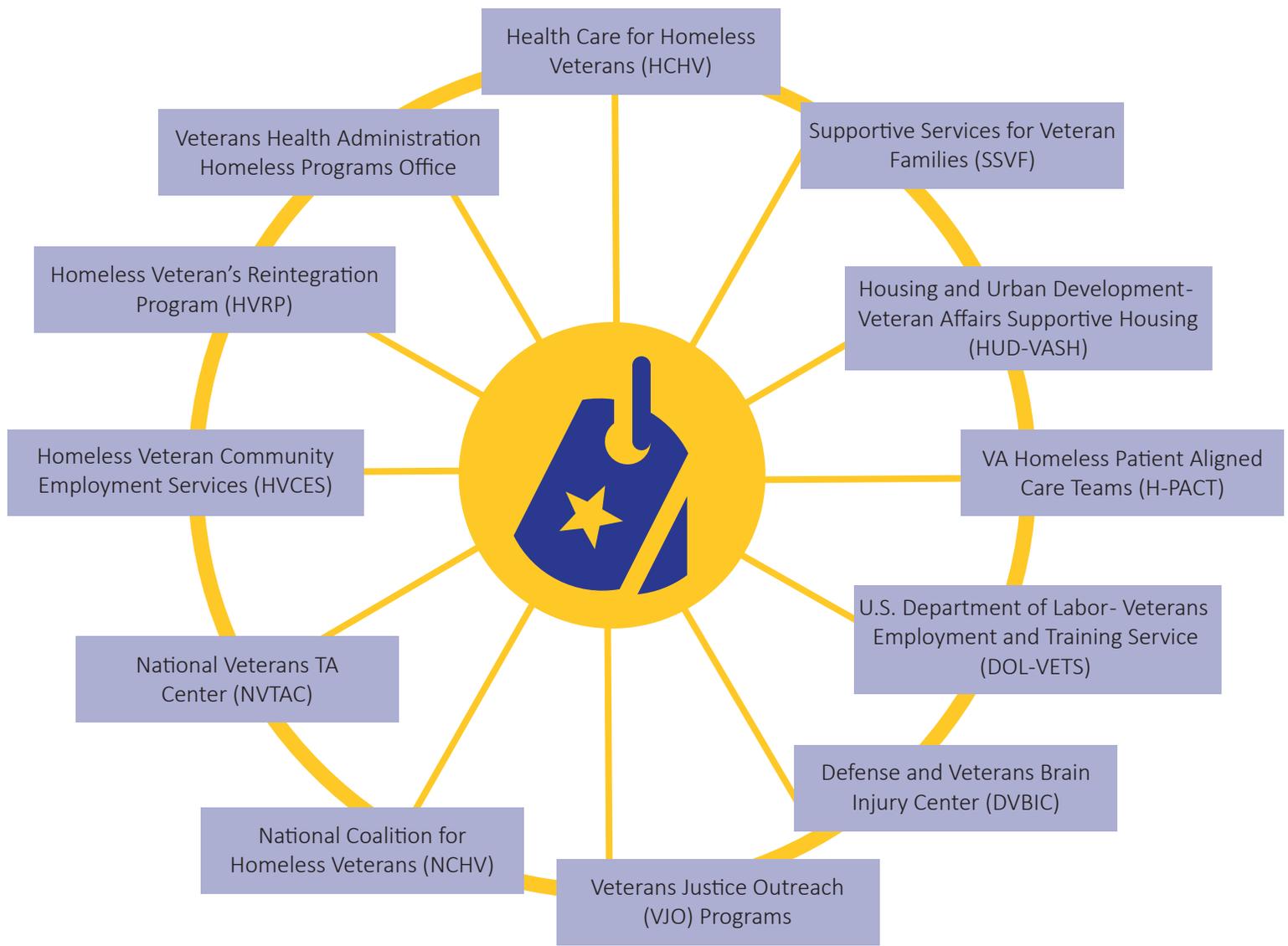
The notice of funding for SSVF grantees includes the expectation that grantees will use the SOAR program through community linkages or staff training. A 2016 survey of SSVF grantees found the following:

- 91%** of grantees who responded said that SOAR would be a useful tool in helping Veterans access benefits and income
- 70%** of grantees utilize the SOAR model through community referrals and providing the service in-house with both SSVF and non-SSVF staff
- 40%** of grantees have SOAR-trained staff, with an average of 2.27 trained staff per grantee
- 19%** of grantees have an SSVF-funded position for a SOAR benefits specialist

SSA Fast Track Programs

100% Permanent & Total Veterans Initiative
Wounded Warriors

VA Program Partners and Other National Veteran Programs



SOAR and VA Products

**SSVF and SOAR
Integration Toolkit**
<https://bit.ly/2IMYVa3>

**SSI/SSDI and
Employment
Benefit/Income
Calculators**
(Coming soon!)

**Connecting Veterans
to Social Security
Disability Benefits: A
Key Component in
Ending Veteran
Homelessness**
<https://bit.ly/2GMNLA4>

**SOAR Works to End
Veteran Homelessness:
VA Caseworker's Guide**
<https://bit.ly/2JaTEwe>

**SSA and VA
Disability Benefits:
Tips for Veterans**
<https://bit.ly/2GMNLA4>