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

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
VA Program Partners and Other National Veteran Programs

- Veterans Health Administration Homeless Programs Office
- Homeless Veteran’s Reintegration Program (HVRP)
- Homeless Veteran Community Employment Services (HVCES)
- National Veterans TA Center (NVTAC)
- National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (NCHV)
- Veterans Health Administration
- Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)
- Housing and Urban Development-Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH)
- VA Homeless Patient Aligned Care Teams (H-PACT)
- U.S. Department of Labor-Veterans Employment and Training Service (DOL-VETS)
- Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center (DVBIC)
- Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO) Programs

SOAR and VA Products

SSVF and SOAR Integration Toolkit

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/2GMNLkA

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/2GMNLkA

For more information: soar@prainc.com | (518) 439-7415 | https://soarworks.prainc.com/