

# Task Force to End Chronic Homelessness



July 2023

## SOAR Program

### What is the SOAR program?

SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR) is a strategy that helps increase access to mainstream benefits for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

### What does SOAR do for citizens?

The main objective is to make it easier for all eligible applicants to be approved on their initial application for social security benefits. However, the program is not limited to persons who are homeless; if an applicant is housed and is eligible, an application may be completed through the SOAR model.

### Has SOAR been successful?

All 50 states have successfully become SOAR eligible; Kansas became a SOAR state in 2010.

The SOAR model has proven it is possible to attain 68% percent success rates on initial applications in an average of 153 days. We have realized much success using the SOAR model with clients. Receiving SSI/SSDI benefits has truly changed lives. If you have a client who is interested in the SOAR program, please contact Tamara Hurley, SOAR case manager at 660-7826 or e-mail a description of the current situation and case to [thurley@sedgwick.gov](mailto:thurley@sedgwick.gov).

### SOAR Application Process for COMCARE Clients

#### New Application:

1. Establish the protective filing date; make an appointment with the local social security office for about 2-3 weeks from the protective filing date (case manager completes).
2. SOAR case manager interviews client to obtain information needed to complete a medical summary. At this meeting, client signs authorized representative form and releases for medical records (one for your agency and one for SSA). Complete the disability application & report online.
3. SOAR case manager sends releases to agencies to begin collecting medical records and other related paperwork; begin medical summary.
4. Case manager attends appointment with client for face-to-face or phone interview with social security office to complete SSI and/or SSDI application (if not completed online).
5. Continue to collect medical records and related paperwork and complete medical summary.
6. Submit all releases, records, medical summary, authorized representative form and other related paperwork together at one time to DDS using barcode they have provided.



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working for you*



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### Application in Appeal:

1. Interview client to obtain information needed to complete a medical summary. At this meeting, also have client sign authorized representative form and releases for medical records (one for your agency and one for SSA). At this meeting, file for reconsideration: complete appeal paperwork on the SSA website (disability report and appeal form).
2. Collect additional medical records and other paperwork; begin medical summary.
3. Submit all additional medical records, completed medical summary, and related paperwork together at one time to DDS using barcode.

### Application with GA:

1. Complete SSDI application ONLY online.
2. Inform SRS of completed SSDI application.
3. Follow steps for a new application.



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