

# June SOAR Dialogue Call



**NC COALITION** to  
**HOMELESSNESS** end



# Announcements

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- Outcomes!
- Need appointments at SSA FOs
- Two new DDS examiners
- SSA increased attorney income cap





# Definitions of Homelessness

# SOAR Definition

- We serve people experiencing homelessness or at risk of experiencing homelessness
- Our definitions come from HUD



# SOAR Definition of Experiencing Homelessness

- An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, such as those living in emergency shelters, transitional housing, or places not meant for habitation, **or**
- An individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence (within 14 days), provided that no subsequent housing has been identified and the individual/family lacks support networks or resources needed to obtain housing, **or**
- Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or families with children and youth who qualify under other Federal statutes, such as the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, have not had a lease or ownership interest in a housing unit in the last 60 or more days, have had two or more moves in the last 60 days, and who are likely to continue to be unstably housed because of disability or multiple barriers to employment, **or**
- An individual or family who is fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, has no other residence, and lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing



# SOAR Definition of At Risk

- Have an annual income below 30 percent of median family income for the area, as determined by HUD, **and**
- Do not have sufficient resources or support networks, immediately available to prevent them from moving to an emergency shelter or place not meant for habitation, **and**
- Exhibit one or more risk factors of homelessness, including recent housing instability or exiting a publicly funded institution or system of care such as foster care or a mental health facility
- Being served by U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF), U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH), Housing First, and other Permanent Supportive Housing for those who were recently experiencing homelessness, and who are relying on grant support or have limited income to sustain their housing.



# SSA Definition

- Homeless/Transient (Living Arrangement)
  - Closely aligned with HUD's definition of literal homelessness
  - An individual with no permanent living arrangement
  - Not a member of a household or institution
- Examples given in POMS:
  - Someone who sleeps in doorways, overnight shelters, parks, bus stations, etc.
  - A person who stays with a succession of friends or relatives and has no permanent living arrangement on the first moment of the month



# SSA Definition

- Homeless Flag
  - Added to claimant's electronic folder "when it is alleged or apparent that the claimant is homeless"
  - Only applicable for those who meet SSA definition of homelessness
  - Not for those who are at risk of homelessness
  - Therefore, not all SOAR cases will be given the homeless flag
    - Can still be marked as SOAR in the remarks section



# Field Offices

- Some FOs are getting this confused and pushing back on at risk claimants
- Feel free to contact me if you are getting push back
- Working with ADO liaison to refresh all FOs on this





Age

# Older Applicants

- Individuals with work history aged 62-67 may be eligible for early retirement benefits

Year of Birth <sup>1.</sup>	Full (normal) Retirement Age	Months between age 62 and full retirement age <sup>2.</sup>	A \$1000 retirement benefit would be reduced to	The retirement benefit is reduced by <sup>4.</sup>
1943-1954	66	48	\$750	25.00%
1955	66 and 2 months	50	\$741	25.83%
1956	66 and 4 months	52	\$733	26.67%
1957	66 and 6 months	54	\$725	27.50%
1958	66 and 8 months	56	\$716	28.33%
1959	66 and 10 months	58	\$708	29.17%
1960 and later	67	60	\$700	30.00%

# Older Applicants

- Individuals over 65 with low income and low resources may be eligible for SSI based on age regardless of disabilities
- Online application not available for adults 65 and older
- Typically do not need SOAR assistance as eligibility is easier to reach
- Can receive SSI and retirement at the same time but SSI will be reduced by the amount of your retirement benefit
- Cannot receive SSDI and retirement at the same time

# Children/Youth

- SOAR has an online course specifically for working with claimants under 18
- No minimum age to apply for SSI
- 18 is minimum age to receive SSDI





# Conditions

# SSA Requirements

- Condition(s) are medically documented
- Condition(s) have lasted or are expected to last 12 months or result in death
- Condition(s) prevent applicant from working at SGA (\$1,350 in 2022)





# SSA Requirements

- For applicants with mental illness, they have *marked* restrictions in at least 2 of these functional areas, or *extreme* limitations in one area:
  - Understand, remember, or apply information (memory, following instructions, solving problems, etc.)
  - Interact with others (getting along with others, anger, avoidance, etc.)
  - Concentrate, persist, or maintain pace (as they relate to the ability to complete tasks)
  - Adapt or manage oneself (hygiene, responding to change, setting realistic goals, etc.)



# Not Requirements but Help

- Applicant is prescribed psychiatric medications and continues to experience symptoms and functional impairments
- Applicant has obtainable medical evidence (for at least part of the past 12 months) that corroborates mental illness and medical conditions
  - Limited medical evidence or large gaps in treatment is normal and acceptable for successful applications. Assess whether the:
    - Applicant's symptoms are severe enough that a one-time examination by a physician would provide clear medical evidence
    - SOAR case manager can write a Medical Summary Report that illustrates a link between the applicant's diagnoses and their symptoms and functional impairments



# Not Requirements but Help

- Applicant is not working due to medical and/or psychiatric conditions (i.e., not because they cannot find work or were laid off)
  - History of failed work attempts (started and stopped employment due to diagnosed conditions)
  - Long work history, but can no longer work up to SGA levels due to conditions
  - Scattered work history due to conditions and other factors





Your Input

# Your Thoughts

- Other criteria you like to think about when considering eligibility?





**Time for Open Questions**

## Contact NCCEH

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## Contact us re: SOAR

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