

SOAR Cost Savings/Benefits Calculation Guide

When promoting the SOAR program to community partners and potential funders, it is important to show the impact that your program can make in their field of practice.

Cost Savings to the Community

Type	Beneficiary	Source
Reduced emergency room usage	Hospitals	Atlanta - First Step (Barbara Peters)
Reduced recidivism rates	Local and state	Issue Brief: SOAR Works for Individuals in Legal Settings
Reduced jail stays	Local and state	Local jail
Reduced state hospital stays	State	State hospital
TANF savings	State and county	State or county agency
Reduced shelter stays	Homeless service system (local, state, federal)	HMIS
Housing First (ending homelessness)	Individual, homelessness and housing system	See Housing First Studies below.

Cost Savings to SSA/DDS

Type	Source
Fewer re-applications and appeals	SOAR cumulative average approval rate on initial decisions – 65% (2024) ⁱ SSA average approval rate on initial decisions (FY2022) – 31% ⁱⁱ
Fewer consultative exams	SOAR CEs by state are available in OAT reports Maryland SOAR vs. Non-SOAR application consultative exam rate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEs for Initial Non-SOAR Claims: 57% had a least one CE • CEs for Initial SOAR Claims: 30% had at least one CEⁱⁱⁱ
Shorter processing time - SSA	SOAR average processing time: 177 days (2024) SSA average processing time: 231 (2024) days ^{iv}
Shorter processing time - DDS	When complete and quality applications are submitted DDS can spend less time requesting and paying for records, ordering CEs, waiting on evidence and trying to contact the applicant.

Increased Income

Type	Beneficiary	Source
SSI/SSDI cash benefit	Individual	Multiply monthly benefit by the number of applicants approved. Multiply by 12 for an annual amount. <i>[# of approvals] * [SSI federal benefit rate] * [12]</i>
Medicaid/Medicare reimbursement	Health care providers	State Medicaid agency, health care providers, and hospitals <i>Seven states reported \$664,110 in Medicaid reimbursement for 40 individuals, or an average of \$16,603 per person, as a result of SOAR (2024)</i>
General/public assistance reimbursement	States, counties	State or county agency <i>Twelve states reported \$95,377 GA/PA reimbursement for 36 individuals, or an average of \$2,649 per person, as a result of SOAR (2024)</i>
Rental income	Housing providers	Housing providers, local housing authority

Quality of Life for the Individual

Type	Source
Improved health outcomes	SOAR Success Stories and other qualitative information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SOAR Success Stories Issue Brief and submissions from SOAR practitioners and leaders.
Engagement with treatment	Community providers SOAR local leads
Relationship with physicians	Local SOAR case managers Health Care for the Homeless Clinics Local treatment providers
Connection with family	SOAR Success Stories and other qualitative information
Employment goals	Employment participation can be tracked in SOAR OAT
Housing stability	Housing First studies and providers; supportive housing models that use SOAR

Housing First Studies

Chicago: [Supportive Housing in Illinois, A Wise Investment](#)

Denver: [Denver housing first collaborative; cost benefit analysis and program outcomes report](#)

JAMA: [Health Care and Public Service Use and Costs Before and After Provision of Housing for Chronically Homeless Persons with Severe Alcohol Problems](#)

Maine: [Cost of homelessness Cost Analysis of Permanent Supportive Housing State of Maine - Greater Portland](#)

Rhode Island: [Rhode Island's Housing First Program Evaluation](#)

Utah: [Comprehensive Report on 2013 Utah Homelessness](#)

ⁱ [SOAR: About the Model – OAT and Outcomes](#)

ⁱⁱ SSI Annual Statistical Report, 2022. Table 70. SSA Pub. No. 13-11827. Washington, DC: SSA, December 2023

ⁱⁱⁱ Data is from Maryland DDS for FY2014 (10/1/13-9/30/14). Note: This reflects number of CEs scheduled, regardless of attendance. A person could have more than one CE scheduled (e.g., 3 total: 2 medical and 1 mental health).

^{iv} [Social Security Administration \(SSA\) Monthly Data for Combined Title II Disability and Title XVI Blind and Disabled Average Processing Time](#)