

## Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for Children:

What is it, who is it for, and how can **Health and Behavioral Health Providers** help?



How can SSI for children help?

- Stabilizing income for children in your programs who are at-risk of or experiencing homelessness
- Enhanced health insurance coverage (Medicaid)



Who is eligible?

- Children (birth to turning age 18) with a physical or mental impairment that causes marked or severe functional limitations
- Children and families with low income and resources
- Note: If a child is unmarried, lives with their parents, and their parents do not receive SSI, a portion of the parents' income and resources may be considered



How can I contribute and help a child access resources?

- Identify children who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness who have a serious mental illness, medical impairment, and/or a co-occurring substance use disorder
- Identify staff to complete the SOAR Online Course: Child Curriculum and assist children and families with completing the SSI application using the SOAR model
- Write a letter documenting the child's limitations in functioning and supportive services provided
- Gather medical evidence, such as hospital or clinic records and psychiatric evaluations, and arrange for additional testing as needed
- Collaborate with State and Local SOAR Leads, SSA, and DDS



What resources are available?

- Understanding SSI for Children:  
<https://www.ssa.gov/ssi/text-child-ussi.htm>
- SOAR Directory:  
<https://soarworks.samhsa.gov/content/contact-us>,  
<https://soarworks.samhsa.gov/directory>
- SOAR Online Course: Child Curriculum: The course is a great resource for health care and behavioral health providers that are interested in learning about the Social Security Disability process and understanding the medical and functional information that is needed to successfully apply for SSI  
<https://soarworks.samhsa.gov/course/soar-child-curriculum>

The SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) Technical Assistance (TA) Center is funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and is a national program designed to increase access to the disability income benefit programs administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA) for eligible adults and children who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and have a serious mental illness, medical impairment, and/or a co-occurring substance use disorder.

Connect with your state SOAR contacts: <https://soarworks.samhsa.gov/directory>