

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for Children: What is it, who is it for, and how can **Youth Providers** help?



How can SSI for children help?

- Stabilizing income for unaccompanied youth
- Income that can be used for housing or other supportive services
- 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, youth, 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 youth access resources?

- Identify youth 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 youth with completing the SSI application using the SOAR model
- If your agency is not able to fully complete the SOAR process, assist the applicant with gathering evidence to support their claim such as medical evidence (e.g., hospital or clinic records and psychiatric evaluations), arrange for additional testing and evaluation as needed, and provide written documentation of the youth's limitations and functioning as well as the supportive services you provide
- Collaborate with the 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>
- Youth MOVE National: <https://youthmovenational.org/>
- 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 providers who are interested in learning about the Social Security Disability process or are interested in assisting children and families with applying 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>