

SSI Ohio Project

What is the SSI Ohio Project?

The SSI Ohio Project was launched in 2008 to improve vulnerable Ohioan's access to SSI and SSDI (Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability Income) and to expedite benefits to those who qualify for these programs. The project, which is administered by the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO), arose from interagency and homeless stakeholder collaboration. The SSI Ohio Project is based on the SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR) methodology.

What is SOAR?

SOAR is a national best practice that teaches caseworkers how to prepare high-quality SSI and SSDI applications. A key component of SOAR is collaboration. Partners such as the Social Security Administration and the Disability Determinations Services are vital to ensuring that SOAR applications are expedited.

Who is eligible?

Individuals, who are homeless, at-risk of homelessness or exiting an institution such as a nursing facility, and who also have a mental illness and/or a physical or developmental disability that interferes with their ability to work, may be eligible. Individuals who are already connected to SSI or SSDI, or who are appealing a decision to stop their benefit, are not eligible.

How does it work?

A HOME Choice Pre-Transition Coordinator or Transition Coordinator contacts an SSI Specialist. A list of specialists is maintained on the COHHIO website. The HOME Choice program is administered by the Ohio Department of Medicaid.

What if there is not an SSI Specialist in my county?

SSI Specialists are most likely to be located in counties where there are a high number of HOME Choice transitions. If there is not an SSI Specialist serving your county you may contact COHHIO's Project Manager for technical assistance.

Questions?

For questions about the SSI Ohio Project, contact Amy Lamerson, SSI Ohio Project Coordinator, COHHIO, at 614-280-1984 Ext. 128 or amylamerson@cohhio.org

For questions about the HOME Choice program, contact HOME_Choice@medicaid.ohio.gov