

Focus Group Facilitator  
SOAR Evaluation: Key Issues

1. Discuss the effectiveness of SOAR technical assistance activities in meeting project goals (to develop SSI/SSDI applications that are approved on initial submission and reduce the time for benefit approval).
2. Talk about the effects of the SOAR technical assistance components (e.g., State action planning, train-the-trainer program, observation and assistance in in-vivo training, follow-up TA) in preparing participants to develop successful SSI/SSDI applications.
3. Discuss implementation of the SOAR model, including barriers or obstacles.
4. Talk about the benefits of SOAR technical assistance to States/localities. Benefits can be related to any of the following areas:
  - (a) Relationship building and linkage to provider agency
  - (b) SSI/SSDI benefits
  - (c) Medicaid/Medicare benefits
  - (d) Improved access to health care and social services
  - (e) Ongoing participation in services (i.e., mental health and substance abuse treatment, primary care)
  - (f) Obtaining/retaining housing
  - (g) Services in supportive housing
  - (h) Assignment of representative payees
5. Discuss sustaining benefits over the time.
6. Discuss how success can be modeled or replicated. Talk about similarities between states/localities that have had success versus states/localities that have had mixed success or low success.

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