

SSB Advocacy and SOAR Feedback Sessions

Purpose: The Social Security Benefits (SSB) Advocacy and SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) programs are in the process of issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for 2017. As we develop the criteria for the RFP we would like to get input from the providers that work with the people served by the program as well as community stakeholders. We would like to expand this work and get feedback on ways to be more effective.

Background: Since the 1980s, county social service agencies and the State have contracted with various Social Security advocates to provide assistance to people who are recipients of certain state public assistance programs, and who are applying for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), or are appealing their SSI/SSDI denial decisions by the Social Security Administration. SSI and SSDI are federal benefits that provide income to people who cannot keep a job because of a disability. A disability is a medical condition that prevents a person from working and is expected to last one year or more.

SSB advocacy helps people who are on state public assistance programs apply for SSI and SSDI benefits. The SOAR program helps people who are homeless, at risk of becoming homeless and have a disability that is expected to last one year or more apply for SSI and SSDI benefits.

Results: SSB Advocacy providers work with people on the following public assistance programs: Diversionary Work Program, General Assistance, Group Residential Housing, Minnesota Family Investment Program, Refugee Cash Assistance and Title IV-E Foster Care. In 2015, 1,417 people applied for and received SSI, SSDI or both with the help of an SSB advocate.

SOAR advocates provide intensive advocacy services and focus on a person's initial SSI/SSDI application. In 2015, 73 people were approved for SSI, SSDI or both with the help of a SOAR advocate.

Session Information: Please RSVP session date and location to dhs.ssaadvocacy@state.mn.us

Session dates and times	Locations for all sessions
Tuesday March 29, 2016 1:30 – 3 pm Live stream http://stream5.video.state.mn.us:8080/FP/d_hslive.html	DHS – Room 5137, 444 Lafayette, St. Paul Anoka County – Room 238, 2100-3 rd Ave., Anoka *Beltrami County -Administration Bldg 1 st fl 701 Minnesota Ave. NW Bemidji Blue Earth County – 410 S. 5 th , 3 rd Floor River Room, Mankato Brown County - 1117 Center St. Big Cottonwood Room, New Ulm Clay County – Family Services Center, 715 11 th St., Moorhead Kandiyohi County - 2200-23 rd St. NE, Room 1070, Willmar Lyon County - Courthouse, 1 st floor, 607 W. Main St., Marshall *Olmsted County - Comm. Serv. 2117 Campus Dr. SE 2 nd fl Rochester St. Louis County , 320 W. 2 nd St., Duluth Stearns County – No longer available *Winona County - Comm. Serv. LL Rm A 202 W. 3 rd St. Winona *White Earth – White Earth Tribal Health Office 26246 Crane Rd. Breckenridge
Tuesday April 5, 2016 1:30 – 3 pm Live stream http://stream5.video.state.mn.us:8080/FP/d_hslive.html	
Tuesday April 12, 2016 1:30 – 3 pm Live stream http://stream5.video.state.mn.us:8080/FP/d_hslive.html	

*Recently added

Conference call number for all dates: 1-888-742-5095, Conf. Code: 6106770549, Pin: 06804