

## SOAR RFA Questions and Answers Session

**1. Funding Amount: The RFA mentions a funding amount of \$788K. Could you please clarify:**

- **Is this amount the total funding available for all recipients, which will be divided among them?**
- **Alternatively, is this amount allocated for each recipient individually?**
- **Regarding the timeframe, is the \$788K intended to cover the entire two-year period, or is it an annual amount provided each year of the grant?**

*The total amount of funds available through this solicitation is \$788,000 over a two-year period. If there is more than one recipient, then yes, it would be divided between them.*

**2. Administrative Support: What expenses are allowed to be covered under the Admin Support category?**

*The bottom of page 8 of the RFA provides some examples, however, applicants may propose other costs not listed that are needed to support the activities of the project.*

**3. De Minimis Rate: Are we permitted to take a de minimis rate for indirect costs?**

*The only amount restrictions are listed on page 8 of the RFA. The budget provided is an example and applicants may propose other costs not listed that are needed to support the activities of the project.*

**4. Do we have to hire new people, or can we send our employees to the training for the SOAR Representative Benefits Specialist?**

*The person hired does not have to be new, however, this funding is to support Full-Time employees whose sole responsibility is to provide SOAR/Benefits services.*

**5. How much are the indirect costs?**

*The only amount restrictions are listed on page 8 of the RFA. The budget provided is an example and applicants may propose other costs not listed that are needed to support the activities of the project.*

**6. I have a question about the SOAR By-Name List RFA. Is this opportunity primarily intended to increase applicant organizations' capacity to provide SOAR services to their own clients (e.g.,**

**eligible individuals on the BNL who have been prioritized for the organization's PSH program)? Or are the SOAR specialists funded by this grant intended to increase the HRS's overall SOAR navigation capacity and to work with any PSH-eligible individuals, regardless of which organizations/PSH programs they may be prioritized for?**

*The referrals for SOAR services will come directly from the PSH By-Name-List. We anticipate that most of the referrals will not have already been referred to a specific PSH housing project. The goal of this project is to increase access to SOAR services for people while they are still experiencing homelessness and waiting for PSH services. Based on your questions, this RFA applies to the latter about increasing HRS's overall SOAR navigation capacity.*

- 7. Would funding from this grant be able to be used for existing programs serving AGENCY ONLY clients such as our XYZ program? Or would we have to create a brand-new program for this funding opportunity if received?**

*The SOAR funding can be used for new or existing programs. The referrals for SOAR services will come directly from the PSH By-Name-List. We anticipate that most of the referrals will not have already been referred to a specific PSH housing project. The goal of this project is to increase access to SOAR services for people while they are still experiencing homelessness and waiting for PSH services.*

- 8. Does the grant require we hire all new employees to serve as SRBS or can we fully allocate a current employee to serve as a SRBS.**

*The person hired does not have to be new, however, this funding is to support Full-Time employees whose sole responsibility is to provide SOAR/Benefits services.*

- 9. Will these slides be shared with participants later?**

*Yes. This will be posted on our website no later than 1/30/25.*

- 10. Can you email PowerPoint?**

*The PowerPoint will be posted on our website by 1/30/25.*

- 11. Clarifying, the recipients of the SRBS services are already pre-determined by this SOAR PSH By-Name list? Can we use any of this funding to provide this SRBS service to clients not included on the SOAR PSH By-Name List?**

*No, the funding is for clients on the SOAR PSH By-Name List only.*

**12. Are organizations serving only PSH By-Name list clients the only ones eligible for this grant? I work at a shelter, and we do get PSH clients from time to time but the majority are not. This question may piggyback on Summer M.'s previous question.**

*No, the funding is for clients on the SOAR PSH By-Name List only.*

**13. What is reporting cadence for financial reporting and programmatic reporting?**

*This question has been answered live*

*Organizations will report information in the Online Application Tracking (OAT) and Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). After SRBS meet with a client they need to report it within 3 business days.*

**14. What is the funding mechanism for this grant? Is it cost reimbursement? Or is the funding provided up front?**

*Organizations will receive upfront funding to support the SOAR PSH By-Name List RFA. Organizations will receive funding quarterly.*

**15. Who determines if the client is eligible for SOAR? Does ECHO have access to their medical records to determine this?**

*The applicants off of the SOAR By-Name List will go through pre-screening. Applicants that are eligible will be chosen based off of information from the pre-screening. ECHO does not have access to applicants' medical records. SOAR Representatives who are assigned applicants off of the SOAR By-Name List need to review the pre-screening and ask the applicant additional questions.*

**16. Who does the prescreening?**

*The PSH Navigators are asked to do the pre-screening.*

**17. How many awards do you anticipate awarding and what is the range or min-max?**

*There can be up to four awards. The total funding distributed is 788K.*

**18. Does the agency need to have access to HMIS for this grant?**

*Organizations who receive this grant will need to document in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). At this time organizations can receive a HMIS license at no cost.*

**19. How many total positions?**

*There can be up to four total positions.*

**20. Is this presentation being recorded, and if so, will it be shared? Or will this Q&A be shared?**

*The presentation is not being recorded. The PowerPoint will be shared and the questions and answers will be shared on the ECHO website.*

**21. Could you please clarify what will define as experienced and unexperienced as it relates to the SRBS?**

*Inexperienced SOAR Representatives Benefit Specialist (SRBS) has no experience with SOAR or disability claims. They would need to take the SOAR course for certification and the SOAR Online Course Review before working with applicants. There will be additional training provided for recipients. Inexperienced SRBS will complete approximately 25 SOAR applications in 12 months, including the time to complete the SOAR Online Course and become familiar with the SSI/SSDI application process.*

*An experienced SRBS is someone who worked on traditional or SOAR disability claims. Full-time SOAR Representatives Benefit Specialist are expected to complete approximately 30 or more SOAR applications in 12 months.*

**22. When you mentioned taking people to medical and non-medical appointments, are they acting in a case management role?**

*No, part of the SOAR Representative Benefit Specialist job duties is to take the applicants they are working with to medical and non-medical appointments.*