

SOAR Training Announcement

Becoming a SOAR Advocate

WHEN: February 24th and 26th from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and
March 3rd from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (optional)

WHERE: Online via Zoom



What is SOAR?

SSI/SSDI, Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) is a nationally recognized best practice model for helping people apply for Social Security disability benefits at the initial and reconsideration levels.

The Benefits of SOAR Training

SOAR approval rates in Colorado are 65% on average, which is significantly higher than the 35% approval rates for unassisted people at the initial level and drops to 10-15% for people experiencing homelessness. In addition, knowing the application process helps individuals obtain benefits faster, maximize their back pay and monthly benefits, and helps individuals understand and connect with other vital supports, such as ABLE accounts, benefits counselors, employment specialists, family and estate planning services, representative payees, and more!

Resources Provided

Trainees will receive slides, exercises, guides, workflow models, SSA forms, and are eligible to join every other week TA calls to help further their growth.

Candidates for this Training

Anyone assisting in or preparing for the SSA disability application process, including individuals applying for SSI/SSDI, families of individuals with disabilities, clinicians, case managers, advocates, and staff who provide services to individuals in need of accessing disability benefits. SOAR training benefits individuals most if they plan to assist with multiple Social Security applications. If you only expect to provide advice or work on one application with a friend or family member, then you may wish to consider our disability webinar series.

Cost

\$400/participant. Groups of 10 or more may be eligible for discount pricing. Contact the SOAR State Team Lead, Byron Kish, at bkish@eastersealscolorado.org for more information.

How to Register

Register online at <https://bit.ly/Feb2026SOAR> or complete the attached form and return by email or mail. Additional information and directions are located on the registration form.

Questions

Please email Byron Kish at bkish@eastersealscolorado.org or call (303) 515-1653.

SOAR Registration Form

Registering for the SOAR training provides a license to the registrant to use the information. In registering for this training, you agree not to reproduce this presentation or material in part or whole for other training purposes.

Registrant Information (please contact Byron Kish to register a group)

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Title: _____ Organization Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please indicate if you need any reasonable accommodations (ADA) to fully participate and contact us at your earliest convenience:

Payment Information (Check, money order, Visa, MasterCard, and Discover accepted)

Credit Card Number: _____

Name on Card: _____ Billing Zip Code: _____

Expiration Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Register online: <https://bit.ly/Feb2026SOAR>

Alternative Registration: Fax to (888) 396-9836, email to bkish@eastersealscolorado.org, or mail to Easterseals Colorado DBS, 940 Wadsworth Blvd, Ste 120, Lakewood, CO 80214.

Remit check or money order to: Easterseals Colorado DBS, 940 Wadsworth Blvd, Ste 120, Lakewood, CO 80214. Please write "DBS SOAR" on the memo line.

Presenter

Byron J. Kish, Esq., SOAR State Lead for Colorado and Senior Director of Disability Benefits Services (DBS), has worked in the disability field since 2010, both at the SSA and as an attorney advocate. In addition to representing clients and managing DBS, he trains and oversees SOAR advocates throughout Colorado, serves as a consulting expert to other organizations, and collaborates with the SSA and Disability Determination Services (DDS) to ensure a quality and efficient adjudication process. Byron graduated from Central Michigan University with a bachelor's in business administration and earned his Juris Doctorate from Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law, graduating Magnum Cum Laude. His diverse background will help you understand how the SSA reviews an application, how to advocate for others, and how to avoid the common mistakes made by advocates and claimants.