



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 5, 2016

Media Contact

Kay Klotz, Development Director
Front Steps 512-305-4107
kklotz@frontsteps.org

Texas Bar Foundation Funds Front Steps

Front Steps is proud to announce that it has been awarded a grant of \$20,000 by the Texas Bar Foundation. The funds will be used for Front Steps' SOAR Program.

Front Steps SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) Program

The Front Steps SOAR Program will provide "Legal Services for the Underserved" primarily, and will also help members of the homeless community to understand their rights and responsibilities under the law. Front Steps uses and promotes research-based, proven best practices in its work to end homelessness. This SOAR task is an innovative attempt to obtain benefits for eligible individuals on a fairly large scale, and provide training to case managers so the work can continue into the future. While this program will benefit Austin and Central Texas, it is possible the results will make it an optimal project to replicate in other locales.

About Front Steps

Front Steps was organized in 1997, to respond to the community need to address homelessness, to provide shelter, basic needs, and legal advocacy. In 2004, Front Steps began management of the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless (ARCH), the first point of entry to the homeless social service system for many. To date, 56 units of permanent supportive housing have been developed. Front Steps piloted a recuperative care project in 2008 with nursing home respite for homeless persons exiting the hospital. In 2014, Front Steps expanded its services to Veterans and their families. Today, Front Steps is one of the largest agencies in Central Texas, serving 6,000 homeless adults annually.

About Texas Bar Foundation

Since its inception in 1965, the Texas Bar Foundation has awarded more than \$16 million in grants to law-related programs. Supported by members of the State Bar of Texas, the Texas Bar Foundation is the nation's largest charitably-funded bar foundation.