



U.S. Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Prisons

Reentry Services Division

Washington, DC 20534

October 23, 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

FROM:



David Paul, Assistant Director
Reentry Services Division

SUBJECT: First Step Act Approved Programs Guide

The First Step Act of 2018 (FSA) requires the agency to conduct risk and needs assessments of all inmates and to offer inmates the opportunity to participate in Evidence-Based Recidivism Reduction (EBRR) Programs and Productive Activities. Eligible inmates may be able to receive time credits and other incentives for completing these programs.

In January 2020, a list of approved, creditable EBRR Programs and Productive Activities was released. Prior to the FSA's passage, the agency categorized programs as "National" or "Model." The differing terms between prior practice and current practice has led to some confusion amongst staff, inmates, and stakeholders.

To streamline dissemination and improve understanding, effective with the issuance of this memo, the outdated Model Programs catalog and National Programs Directory will be retired. These older documents may still be useful for staff as a reference, but the BOP's authoritative reference for approved programs is the published FSA Approved Program Guide. This document is available on Sallyport and will be published on the BOP's public website (www.bop.gov).

The Reentry Services Division adds new programs to the FSA guide as approved in accordance with the BOP's published process; as a result, the most up-to-date reference of the guide and applicable programs materials and corresponding SENTRY assignments will be posted at <http://sallyport.bop.gov/co/rsd/rsdFsaResourcePage.jsp>, the RSD FSA Resource Page.

As a reminder, FSA places a number of responsibilities on the agency for needs assessments and programs:

- Assessments of the 13 need areas are completed on all sentenced inmates within 28 days of arrival to the designated facility.
- Staff responsible for assessing needs from Unit Management, Education, and Health Services must enter the appropriate SENTRY code or load the assignment via the Insight Feedback tab at the time of the assessment. Psychology Services staff will continue to receive the assessed need results for Cognitions, Antisocial Peers, Mental Health, and Trauma on a monthly basis from Central Office. Local Psychology Services will then enter these needs and the anger need into Insight or SENTRY.
- Institutions are responsible for offering EBRR Programs and PAs commensurate with the needs of the local inmate population. Wardens must prioritize the delivery of FSA programs over local, non-standardized and non-creditable programs.
- Staff must use the appropriate SENTRY assignments for inmates interested in, participating in, or having completed all FSA programs. Institution leadership should monitor rosters and ensure programs are being offered with appropriate frequency and capacity to meet the needs of the inmates at that facility.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the care and custody of our inmate population. If you have any questions, please contact Alix McLearn, Senior Deputy Assistant Director, Reentry Services Division.