



**U.S. Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Prisons**

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Bureau of Prisons Seeking Inmate Program Submissions
Effort to expand number of programs under the First Step Act

WASHINGTON: The Bureau of Prisons (BOP) is announcing a new process to enable criminal justice stakeholders to submit programs which assist federal inmates in reducing their recidivism risk. The review and approval of these programs is an opportunity for BOP to expand the number of programs inmates may participate in to earn First Step Act (FSA) time credits, a key aspect of FSA implementation efforts.

“The BOP is poised to add recidivism reducing programs to those already in place to expand inmate access to the help they need and offer incentives to keep them on the right path upon release,” said BOP Director Michael Carvajal. “This effort is part of BOP’s commitment to implementing the First Step Act and its goals of helping to reduce recidivism and crime, and enhance public safety in our communities nationwide.”

The FSA enables eligible inmates to earn time credits if they participate in, and complete, assigned programs aimed at reducing recidivism rates. The BOP currently offers a range of programs in all facilities and is seeking to expand the number of available programs for eligible inmates by considering external program submissions from individuals, organizations and other stakeholders.

The BOP has engaged the services of an independent research organization to assist the agency in ensuring that all programs can be thoroughly and equitably evaluated. Stakeholders interested in submitting a program that would qualify as “evidence-based recidivism reducing” under the FSA must provide research supporting an evidence review. Programs will be reviewed for evidence demonstrating effectiveness in reducing recidivism as well as additional BOP established criteria. The BOP will decide what programs are included on their approved list (and in which category) using the information from the independent review process.

For more information about the FSA, including the process for submitting a program for consideration, including the criteria and standards to be used to assess programs, visit the First Step Act public webpage: <https://www.bop.gov/inmates/fsa/>. Requests for submissions do not constitute a Request for Proposal (RFP) or a promise to issue an RFP in the future. Should an RFP be issued in the future, it will be posted publicly.

Additional information about the Federal Bureau of Prisons can be found at www.bop.gov.

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