

Review of External Programs

The First Step Act enables eligible inmates to earn time credits if they participate in, and complete, assigned programs aimed at reducing recidivism rates.¹ The Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) has provided a list of programs which are currently offered in BOP facilities that address individual criminogenic and critical needs of eligible inmates.² To expand the number of programs available to eligible inmates, the BOP will consider externally submitted programs for potential inclusion on the approved list.

The BOP has engaged an independent, external, not-for-profit organization without conflicts of interest to support the development and execution of the review process. External 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 using the information from the independent reviews.

How Reviews Will Be Conducted

Social scientists from the independent, external organization will review each program submission to determine if (1) evidence of recidivism reduction is observed and (2) other BOP-relevant criteria are met.

How to Submit for Review

Submitters must complete a submission form **for each program** and provide **at least one study of that program** to be considered for evidence review. Submitters are required to enter summary information about the program and about each study of the program on the submission form. Submitters are required to provide one to three studies, along with the submission form.

If submitting multiple programs for review, a separate submission form must be completed for **each**, including the study or studies.

¹ Source: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/756/text/pl>.

² Source: https://www.bop.gov/inmates/fsa/docs/evidence_based_recidivism_reduction_programs.pdf.