



DC Residents in Custody and the First Step Act

What is the First Step Act?

The First Step Act is legislation designed to give federal residents an opportunity to return home early and reduce chances of recidivism. By offering multiple programs including, but not limited to, anger management, the Challenge Program, and Money Smart, residents can earn good time credits.¹ Upon completion of the program, residents can earn “10 to 15 days of time credits for every 30 days of successful participation in Evidence Based Recidivism Reduction Programs and Productive Activities.”² The credits are also retroactive back to December 21, 2018, which was the day the First Step Act was enacted.

How does it impact DC Code Offenders?

DC Code Offenders, although they may be housed in federal institutions, are not eligible for good time credit under the First Step Act. While they are allowed to participate in the programs, they do not receive time credit, and they often are bypassed in favor of federal residents due to DC’s sentencing guidelines.

It is encouraged that DC Code offenders still take these classes to show dedication to rehabilitation. This will allow them to be in better standing for exclusive DC opportunities including [the Second Look Act](#) and [Compassionate Release](#).

If you would like more information about these opportunities, contact the DC CIC at dccic@dc.gov.

¹ https://www.bop.gov/inmates/fsa/docs/fsa_guide_0822.pdf

² <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-announces-new-rule-implementing-federal-time-credits-program-established>