



## U.S. Department of Justice FY 2021 Budget Request

### First Step Act (Amount in \$000s)

Component/Initiative	Positions	Correctional Officers	Amount
<b>Federal Bureau of Prisons</b>			
First Step Act – RRC Expansion	0	0	\$244,483
First Step Act – Expand MAT Nationwide	53	0	\$37,070
First Step Act – Expand Reentry Programs	76	0	\$23,305
First Step Act – FY 2020 FSA Programs	123	0	\$104,625
<b>Total Program Enhancements</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$409,483</b>

The timely, efficient, and effective implementation of the First Step Act of 2018 (FSA) is a priority for the Department and the Administration. The landmark criminal justice reform bill includes numerous provisions to reduce recidivism among federal offenders, such as by increasing inmates’ access to pre-release custody so that they can finish portions of their sentences in the community; expanding the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) program to assist and treat inmates with opioid use disorders; and increasing the availability of evidence-based risk-reduction programs, such as vocational, life skills, and mental health programs. In FY 2021, the Department of Justice requests \$409.5 million and 252 positions to continue implementing the FSA, including \$304.9 million and 129 positions for new program expansions. These investments will allow an additional 8,700 inmates to finish their sentences in halfway houses and ease transition back to their communities, will bring MAT treatment to every Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) facility in the Nation, and will increase inmate access to job and life skills training programs needed to successfully re-enter society.

#### **Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP)**

##### **First Step Act – Residential Reentry Center (RRC) Expansion: \$244.5 million and 0 positions**

The FSA requires the BOP to have pre-release custody available for eligible inmates. At the same time, the FSA greatly expands inmate eligibility for pre-release custody, by allowing any eligible inmate to earn 10 days of pre-release custody time credits for every 30 days of successful participation in an evidence-based recidivism-reduction program or productive activity. Pre-release custody usually occurs in an RRC, commonly called a halfway house. The BOP’s goal is to increase the average inmate stay at RRCs to 180 days, which is in line with accepted best practices. The BOP is currently under contract for about 14,000 RRC beds, and funding provided in FY 2020 will add 300 more. The FY 2021 request supports an additional 8,700 beds, bringing the total to 23,000 RRC beds – a level that is expected to meet pre-release demand. On January 1, 2020, 10,197 BOP inmates were housed in RRCs.

##### **First Step Act – Expand MAT Nationwide: \$37.1 million and 53 positions**

MAT combines behavioral therapy and medications to treat inmates with opioid use disorders and prevent opioid overdose. The BOP estimates 10 percent of its population may be eligible for MAT treatment. The BOP is investing \$37.1 million and 53 new psychologist positions in FY 2020 to expand MAT treatment from a small pilot program to a program available at half of BOP’s institutions. The FY 2021 request includes funding and personnel to expand the therapies to all BOP institutions.

##### **First Step Act – Expand Reentry Programs: \$23.3 million and 76 positions**

As required by the FSA, the BOP will increase access to evidence-based recidivism reduction programs. The BOP’s focus will be on adding capacity to existing mental health, life skills, special needs, and educational/vocational programs as well as adding new programs as they are identified and evaluated.

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### **First Step Act – FY 2020 FSA Programs: \$104.6 million and 123 positions**

Many of the FSA programs that the BOP requests began expansion in FY 2020. Of the \$104.6 million for FSA in base resources:

- \$38.1 million provides MAT to the first half of BOP's institutions;
- \$19.4 million expands preliminary evidence-based recidivism reduction programs;
- \$14.6 million funds pay and benefits of FSA staff and ongoing operations and maintenance costs for inmate-focused IT improvements;
- \$14.0 million continues funding for the Innovations in Corrections program, which incentivizes development of innovative, evidence-based pilot projects in reentry and recidivism reduction approaches, such as post-secondary programming for inmates;
- \$8.7 million continues funding 300 RRC beds added in FY 2020;
- \$5.5 million continues funding for inmate-focused IT, such as upgrading the BOP's computer-based education network; and,
- \$4.3 million continues funding for an evaluation of the BOP's recidivism reduction programs and tool for assessing recidivism risk.