

Inmate Message - Federal Time Credits (FTC) Auto-Calculation Launches

Recently, the Bureau has launched the Federal Time Credits (FTCs) auto-calculation application. All eligible inmates will be reviewed regardless of PATTERN risk level release date, and credits will be applied consistent with the final rules language and implementing text.

As a reminder, the unit team will determine an inmate's eligibility to earn FTCs based on the current conviction and prior criminal convictions.

The earning of FTCs is based on "earning status," and NOT participation and/or completion of individual programs. **Inmates who refuse or fail to complete any portion of the needs assessment and/or refuse or decline any program recommended to address a specific identified need area, is considered "opted out" and will not earn FTCs.**

The following items have been incorporated into the calculation of FTCs:

- While inmates can begin earning time credits starting with the enactment of the statute, the "presumed participation" period only extends from December 21, 2018, through January 14, 2020.
- During the "presumed participation" period and through April 28, 2021, the PATTERN risk level calculated on April 28, 2021 (PATTERN auto-calculation start date), will be used to determine the initial risk level and FTC earning rate.
- During the "presumed participation" period, only those days when the inmate was incarcerated outside the facility, housed in the Special Housing Unit, or on refused/declined status for a pre-FSA programming (e.g., FRP, Drug Education, GED, etc.) will be excluded from successful participation and credit will not be earned.
- **From January 15, 2020, forward, all components of the SPARC-13 needs assessment must be complete to be eligible to earn FTCs. Failing to do so is considered "opted out." In other words, if an inmate fails to complete a required survey or declines to enroll in a recommended program which addresses a specific need, the inmate will not be eligible to earn FTCs.**
- In order to earn or apply the higher earning rate of 15 days (for every 30 day period of successful EBRR or PA recommended), inmates need a PATTERN level of minimum or low risk or have dropped to a minimum or low risk level and maintained it for two consecutive assessment periods.

- FTCs are applied first toward release dates and then toward RRC/HC placement.
- Inmates must be otherwise eligible to participate in RRC/HC placement to apply FTCs to early release. While inmates continue to earn FTCs, inmates can only apply the FTCs if they have no detainers, unresolved pending charges, and/or unresolved immigration status issues.
- **Eligible inmates will continue to earn FTCs toward early release until they have accumulated 365 days OR are 18 months from their release date, whichever happens first. At this point, the release date becomes fixed, and all additional FTCs are applied toward RRC/HC placement.**
- FTCs will be updated monthly, and an FSA Time Credits Assessment worksheet will be maintained in the central files. The most current copy will be provided during the regularly schedule Program Review team meeting.
- FTCs earned toward RRC/HC placement will be applied in addition to release needs-based recommendations made under the Second Chance Act.
- FTCs may be applied toward early release in addition to the early release benefit for RDAP graduates; however, inmates are still required to complete the required 120-day RRC/HC placement. Dropping out of RDAP may result in the loss of both the RDAP early release benefit and early release due to FTCs if it is determined the inmate is "opting out" despite having an identified need.