



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

Reentry Services Division

Washington, D.C. 20534

March 31, 2025

**MEMORANDUM FOR ALL RESIDENTIAL REENTRY MANAGERS AND REGIONAL
CORRECTIONAL PROGRAMS ADMINISTRATORS**

**FROM: BIANCA SHOULDERS, ADMINISTRATOR
RESIDENTIAL REENTRY MANAGEMENT BRANCH
REENTRY SERVICES DIVISION**

**FROM: MELISSA ARNOLD, ADMINISTRATOR
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**SUBJECT: Updated Guidance on Community-Based
Population Management**

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide updated guidance on managing Residential Reentry Center (RRC) populations in light of FY2025 budget constraints. Effective immediately, all inmates releasing to the community under Second Chance Act (SCA) authority after April 21, 2025, will have dates adjusted in order to bring the Residential Reentry Management Branch cost centers into alignment with the Federal Bureau of Prisons (Bureau) appropriated funding levels until further notice. This guidance will remain in place pending assessment of Bureau's future budgets. Placements will be adjusted as follows:

SCA Placements

1. Effective immediately, all SCA pending placements (i.e., "in the pipeline") will be reduced to a maximum of 60 days, with two exceptions:
 - a. Inmates participating in the Residential Drug Abuse Program (RDAP) will have their release via 3621e CMPL transfer date reduced to allow for a 125-day placement in the RRC.
 - b. Female inmates being released to the Northern Virginia/District of Columbia area. These individuals will be transferring to a firm-fixed price contract, and no cost savings will result from an adjustment of transfer date.
2. Inmates waiting to be referred under SCA must continue to have individualized assessments completed. However, consistent with 18 U.S.C. § 3621(b), institutions shall consider bed availability. The Bureau's existing and projected budget constraints limit bed availability,

meaning the Bureau cannot support placement beyond 60 days. As stated above, this guidance will remain in place pending assessment of the Bureau's future budgets. This applies to:

- a. Cases solely based on SCA eligibility.
- b. Cases where SCA time is in addition to First Step Act Time Credits (FTCs). (Earned and applied FTCs will not be changed, while SCA time will be limited to a maximum of 60 days.)

Continuation of First Step Act Placements

Inmates who have earned and are eligible to apply FTCs to pre-release custody should continue to be referred to the community regardless of the amount of time earned.

Auto-Calculator Change

Effective March 31, 2025, the auto-calculator will be updated to reflect a default to zero days for SCA placement days (instead of the previous 365 days).

Actions Required

- Residential Reentry Managers (RRMs) should reduce all pending SCA placements in the pipeline who have a date after April 21, 2025 (as stated above).
- RRMs should not reduce any referrals in which FTCs have been earned and applied to pre-release custody regardless of the amount of time in the community.
- Institutions are instructed to continue all individualized assessments, ensuring referrals under SCA are no more than 60 days.

While this circumstance is regrettable, the Bureau must work to remain within congressionally appropriated funding levels.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued dedication to supporting the Bureau's mission. Your efforts are critical to ensuring the success of RRC programs during these challenging times.

Should you have any questions, please contact Melissa Arnold, Administrator, Correctional Programs Branch, or Bianca Shoulders, Administrator, Residential Reentry Management Branch.