

## 1.4.B.17 Inmate Earned Discharge Credits

### I Policy Index:



**Date Signed:** 11/14/2019  
**Distribution:** Public  
**Replaces Policy:** None  
**Supersedes Policy Dated:** 07/22/2019  
**Affected Units:** All Institutions  
**Effective Date:** 11/15/2019  
**Scheduled Revision Date:** June 2020  
**Revision Number:** 4  
**Office of Primary Responsibility:** DOC Administration

### II Policy:

The Department of Corrections (DOC) may award Earned Discharge Credits (EDC) to eligible inmates. Earned discharge credits may be granted if, in the judgement of the Warden and Secretary of Corrections, the inmate has met the criteria set forth in SDCL § 24-15A-50.1 and this policy. Inmates are not entitled to earned discharge credits or consideration for earned discharge credits.

### III Definitions:

#### Academic program:

General Education Development test (GED), USF Creative Writing, and Credit where Credit is Due.

#### Admission:

An entry into a DOC facility that results in adding the inmate to the institutional count.

#### Booking:

An offender's continuous period of custody, and/or supervision on a set of transactions.

#### COMS:

Comprehensive Offender Management System. A computerized offender records system used to maintain individual offender records, support DOC operations and provide a source for generation of aggregate and statistical data.

#### Evidence Based Programs:

Treatment and intervention programs that scientific research demonstrates reduce recidivism among offenders under correctional supervision.

#### Extension of Confinement:

Inmates may be released to the community under "extension of confinement", as provided in SDCL §§ 24-15-14, 24-2-25 and 24-2-27. Inmates released to extension of confinement shall be placed in a residential facility (for example, a halfway house or nursing home) or in a private residence (home-based). Inmates who meet the set criteria for release to extension of confinement will be released as a services release or pre-release.

**Heroic Acts:**

Significant and courageous acts performed by an inmate in a life-threatening situation which involves extraordinary heroism in direct lifesaving actions through administering aid to another, protecting another from assault or preventing major property damage during a disturbance, significant efforts in disaster response or providing exceptional assistance in maintaining the safety and security of a prison.

**Individual Program Directive:**

A directive which establishes standards and criteria for release to parole supervision for each inmate sentenced to a term of years and committed to the DOC for a crime committed on or after July 1, 1996.

**Vocational programs:**

Auto Body, Auto Mechanics, Welding and Construction Technology at Mike Durfee State Prison; Electrical Apprenticeship and Carpentry Apprenticeship through SD Housing, Fire Fighting Training (excluding refresher training) Chainsaw Training and DOT Flagging certification, keytrain (SDWP) and forklift (SDWP).

**Work:**

The act of being assigned to specific work duties within the following: institutional support, prison industry, private sector prison industry, work release and while released to extended confinement.

**IV Procedures:****1. Qualifying Behavior:**

- A. Inmates may be awarded up to 90 days of Earned Discharge Credits (EDC) for completion of each 360 hours of work, not to exceed 180 days of EDC in a twelve (12) month period;
- B. Inmates may be awarded up to 90 days of EDC for each completion of an academic, vocational or evidence-based program.
- C. Inmates may be awarded up to 365 days of EDC for performing a heroic act, in addition to any other EDC awarded for that time period.

**2. General Eligibility:**

- A. Inmates are eligible for EDC consideration, with the following exceptions:
  1. Sentences for crimes committed prior to July 1, 1996;
  2. Life sentence or capital punishment sentence;
  3. Inmates held in prison under a sentence of probation (Suspended Imposition of Sentence (SIS) or Suspended Execution of Sentence (SES));
  4. Parolees, regardless of whether held in an institution or community (CTP, detainee or extended detainee status) (does not include parole EDC awarded pursuant to SDCL § [24-15A-50](#));
  5. Inmates held in prison under a sentence issued from any jurisdiction other than the State of South Dakota, including Federal inmates/detainees or Interstate Compact;
  6. Inmates classified as Level 3 System Risk during the review month (See DOC policy 1.4.G.6 [System Risk Level](#)), are not eligible for EDC for work or heroic acts.

7. Inmates who have refused to participate in, or terminated from chemical dependency treatment, MRT, STOP, GED, during this booking on their most recent program record, are ineligible to earn work or heroic act EDC and are ineligible to enroll in vocational programs. Provided the inmate is otherwise eligible, he/she may earn EDC for completion of academic and evidence-based programs. Once an inmate is attending previously refused/terminated program(s), he/she is eligible for work and heroic act EDC and enrollment in vocational programs.
  - a. The "alert" which is documented in COMS when an inmate refuses programming or is terminated from programming must be removed before the inmate is eligible for work EDC or vocational enrollment.

### 3. Evidence Based Program Requirements:

- A. To be considered an Institutional Earned Discharge Credit (IEDC) program, the program must:
  1. Meet the definition of an evidence-based program, academic or vocational program
  2. Have a defined target population;
  3. Address criminogenic needs;
  4. Have appropriately trained facilitators/teachers;
  5. Have written curriculum/manualized programming; and
  6. Have a program fidelity plan and program evaluation plan.
- B. To be designed as an EB program, **Attachment 1- Evidence Based Program Outline** must be completed and submitted to the DOC Evidence Based Program Manager.
  1. An EB Program Review Team, made up of the EB Program Manager and at least two additional DOC/Behavioral Health staff, will review information provided on **Attachment 1** and determine whether the program meets the requirements of an EDC eligible evidence-based program.
  2. If the program does not meet the requirements of an EB program, the review team will offer assistance to the facilitator/teacher in making changes to the program that meet the EB program requirements.
  3. The EB Program Review Team will ensure there are annual audits of approved EB programs to support program fidelity and review evaluation outcomes, unless there is another process in place that audits approved EB programs.

### 4. Program Credits:

- A. Upon completion of an IEDC program identified in **Attachment 2** on or after July 1, 2018 by an eligible inmate, the designated number of days of EDC will be awarded to the inmate.
- B. Inmate enrollment in IEDC programs will be determined through the application of assessment information, department priorities and staff/resource availability.
- C. The program facilitator/teacher is required to enter the inmate's program completion in Accredited Programs in COMS (See **Attachment 3**).
- D. Inmates will receive EDC one time only for completing a particular EB program, unless an assessment supports the inmate complete the same EB program a subsequent time.

- E. Inmates placed in the community under Extension of Confinement (EC) (See DOC policy 1.4.G.7 [Extension of Confinement](#)), are eligible for credits upon completion of community based academic, vocational or EB programs (as determined by the DOC based on the same process described in Section 3). The inmate's supervising parole agent will notify DOC Central Records of the EC inmate's EB program completions in the community. The EDC will be applied to the EC inmate's sentence(s).

## 5. Work Credits:

- A. Upon completion of 360 hours of work after July 1, 2018, 90 days of EDC may be awarded to eligible offenders. To be eligible for an award of work credits, the work hours must occur on or after July 1, 2018.
- B. Eligible employed inmates in Work Release, extension of confinement, Private Sector Prison Industries and institutional payroll, may be awarded IEDC.
- C. Inmates may begin to accrue work credits the month following admission to the DOC.
- D. Inmates employed in eligible work, who do not earn a wage for work completed due to not having a valid Social Security number, are eligible for EDC.
- E. Work IEDC is recorded through inmate payroll for institutional work, PSPI payroll, via alerts in COMS for inmates on pre-release extension of confinement (EC) (See DOC policy 1.4.G.7 [Extension of Confinement](#)) and offender Work Release records in COMS (See **Attachment 3**).
- F. Hours of work completed from multiple work assignments can be used to reach the maximum 360 work hours.
- G. EDC for work cannot exceed 180 days in a twelve-month period.
- H. EDC for inmates working within the Work Release Program and while on pre-release EC will be calculated at 5.7 hours per day to reflect full time employment (40-hour work week).

## 6. Heroic Acts:

- A. The Warden may recommend an award of EDC for a heroic act performed by an eligible inmate within an institution to the Secretary of Corrections.
- B. The Director of Community Service may recommend an award of EDC for a heroic act performed by an eligible inmate while assigned to a disaster response to the Warden (See DOC policy 1.3.B.5 [Deployment to a Natural Disaster](#)).
- C. The Director of Parole Services may recommend an award of EDC for a heroic act performed by an eligible inmate while released to EC to the Warden.
- D. All recommendations for heroic act EDC shall be documented by completing the *EDC Heroic Act Recommendation* form (see **Attachment 4**). If approved by the Warden, the form shall be forwarded to the Secretary of Corrections for final decision.
- E. The Secretary may (1) concur with the recommendation and grant the inmate heroic act EDC, not to exceed 365 days; or (2) deny the Warden's recommendation for heroic act EDC; or (3) grant the inmate a modified number of days of EDC.

- F. Approved *EDC Heroic Act Recommendation* forms will be provided to DOC Central Records for application to the inmate's sentence. The total EDC shall be specified on the form.

## 7. General Administrative Provisions:

- A. EDC for program completion, work, or combination thereof, cannot exceed 270 days in a twelve (12) month period.
- B. When an inmate releases from a DOC institution (not including release to EC), the inmate's work hours for determining EDC eligibility returns to zero (0). Work hours accumulated from an inmate's prior admission to the DOC do not carry over and shall not be applied to the inmate's current admission.
- C. Inmates remain subject to the provisions of their IPD and directives issued by the Parole Board or parole services. An award of EDC does not imply compliance or non-compliance of an inmate with their IPD or other conditions or requirements of the inmate's sentence (See DOC policy 1.4.B.1 [Individual Program Directives \(IPD\)](#)).
- D. Eligible inmates serving SD prison sentences in another jurisdiction may be awarded EDC.
- E. Inmates who object to determinations or decisions regarding the granting of EDC, as it affects their individual sentence(s), may utilize the Administrative Remedy (AR) process (See DOC policy 1.3.E.2 [Administrative Remedy for Inmates](#)).
- F. The *EDC Approval Timeline* form (**Attachment 5**) serves a resource on the schedule for work and program credits.
- G. Nothing in this policy may be the basis for establishing a constitutionally protected liberty, property or due process interest in any inmate.
- H. Inmates may refuse the application of EDC to their sentence by completing **Attachment 6** and returning this form to the Evidence Based Practices Manager.
- I. Inmates who choose to refuse EDC are required to sign the *Refusal Acknowledgments* form. The refusal is valid for 6 months from the date signed. Inmates are required to renew their refusal upon expiration of the granted refusal to accept EDC.
- J. Inmates who refuse EDC are not eligible for placement in Work Release or release to EC. The Refusal Acknowledgments must be signed and valid prior to any consideration of Work Release or Extension of Confinement is initiated.

## 8. Application of EDC to Inmate Sentences:

- A. EDC shall be applied to an inmate's sentence prior to calculation of the inmate's initial parole date (See DOC policy 1.1.E.2 [Date Computation](#) and SDCL § 24-15A-50.1). Application of EDC earned after the IPD does not impact a next parole review date on that transaction.
- B. In a string of consecutive sentences, credits are applied to the first active sentence.
- C. If an award of EDC moves the inmate to or past their sentence discharge date or suspended sentence release date, the inmate will be released within seven calendar days from the date the application of EDC made the inmate eligible for discharge or release to suspended sentence.

- D. If an award of earned discharge credits moves an inmate within 30 days of their initial parole date, the compliance report required in SDCL § 24-15A-35, will be completed no later than within seven calendar days from the date of the application of the credits.
1. Inmates eligible for release to initial parole upon the application of EDC are subject to policy provisions directing the release of inmates from custody, including but not limited to, DOC policy 1.4.G.2 *Inmate Release Procedure*.

## V Related Directives:

SDCL § 24-15A-50.1

- DOC policy 1.1.E.2 – *Date Computation*
- DOC policy 1.3.B.5 – *Deployment to a Natural Disaster*
- DOC policy 1.3.E.2 – *Administrative Remedy for Inmates*
- DOC policy 1.4.B.1 – *Individual Program Directives (IPD)*
- DOC policy 1.4.G.2 – *Inmate Release Procedure*
- DOC policy 1.4.G.6 – *System Risk Level*
- DOC policy 1.4.G.7 – *Extension of Confinement*

## VI Revision Log:

### **June 2018: New Policy**

**October 2018:** Revised definition of “Academic Program” and **Added** definition of “Admission” and **Revised** definition of “Heroic Acts” and “Vocational Program” and **Added** definition of “Working Day” **Added** “in addition to other credits for that time period” in Section 1 C. **Added** “and are ineligible to enroll in vocational programs” in Section 2 7. **Added** “or vocational programming” in Section 2 7. a. **Added** G. to Section 5. **Added** 2. to Section 6 A. **Deleted** G. in Section 7. **Added** “Inmates who believe application of EDC makes them immediately eligible for discharge from custody, who have not been contacted by unit staff, must kite their unit staff” in Section 7 E. **Added** B. C. and D. to Section 8. **Updated** Attachment 2. 3. and 5.

**December 2018:** **Deleted** “5 working days” and **Replaced** with “7 calendar days” in Section 8 C. and D. **Deleted** “If the inmate meets the requirements of SDCL § 24-15A 38, the inmate will be released to parole supervision no later than within 5 working days of compliance report completion” and **Replaced** with Inmates eligible for release to initial parole upon the application of EDC are subject to policy provisions directing the release of inmates from custody, including but not limited to, DOC policy 1.4.G.2 Inmate Release Procedure in Section 8 D. 1.

**April 2019:** **Deleted** “Writing for Reentry” and Replaced with “USF Creative Writing” in definition of Academic Program. **Added** definition of “Extension of Confinement”. **Added** “keytrain (SDWP) and forklift (SDWP) to definition of “Vocational Program” **Deleted** definition of Working Day. **Added** “unless there is another means of auditing” in Section 3 B. 3. **Added** “completing Attachment 6 and returning this to the EBP Manager” in Section 7. H. **Added** I and J to Section 7. **Added** “Application of EDC after the IPD does not impact a next parole review date on that transaction” in Section 8 A. **Deleted** “Writing for Reentry”, Problem Solving and Decision Making, T4C and CBH Aftercare Staying Quit” in Attachment 2.

**November 2019:** **Added** “IEDC” to Section 3 A. **Added** “academic or vocational program” to Section 3 A. 1. **Deleted** “Be assessment-based” and **Replaced** with “Have a defined target population” in Section 3 A. 2. Formatting and language changes in Section 6.

*Mike Leidholt (original signature on file)*

Mike Leidholt, Secretary of Corrections

11/14/2019

Date

## Attachment 1: Evidence Based Program Requirements

The *Evidence Based Program Requirements* form is located at:

<M:\DOC\DOC Policies\Agency\DOC Policies\Attachment Templates\EDC Program Requirements.doc>

South Dakota Department of Corrections Policy Distribution: Public	Attachment: EDC Program Requirements Refer to DOC policy 1.4.B.17 Inmate Earned Discharge Credits
<b>EDC PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS</b>	
<b>Program Goals/Problem(s) to be addressed/ Criminogenic Needs?</b>	
<b>Target Population/Assessment process/Placement process:</b>	
<b>Curriculum (must be written ideally a program manual):</b>	
<b>Facilitator/teacher, training:</b>	
<b>Interventions i.e. workbooks, lectures, journals, videos, etc.</b>	
<b>Time Frames/Dosage:</b>	
<b>Evaluation plan:</b>	
<b>Fidelity plan:</b>	
<b>Program Documentation (attach)</b>	

**Attachment 2: EDC Programs and Days**

<b>ATTACHMENT 2</b>	
<b>EDC PROGRAMS AND CREDIT</b>	
<b>Academic/Education</b>	
GED	90
CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE	10
USF Creative Writing	20
<b>EBP</b>	
PROBLEM SOLVING & DECISION MAKING (SDWP)	10
MRT	90
DV MRT	90
STOP	90
PREP PROGRAM	90
COMMON SENSE PARENTING	20
HELPING WOMEN RECOVER	45
MOVING ON	90
CBISA/NATIVE AMERICAN CBISA	90
DBT	90
<b>Vocational</b>	
AUTO BODY	90
AUTO MECHANICS	90
WELDING	90
CONSTRUCTION TECH-NOVICE	90
CONSTRUCTION TECH-INTERMEDIATE	90
CONSTRUCTION TECH-ADVANCED	90
HOUSE PROJECT-ICAP ELECTRICAL YEAR 1 RESIDENTIAL WIRING	90
HOUSE PROJECT-ICAP ELECTRICAL YEAR 2 MOTORS AND TRANSFORMERS	90
HOUSE PROJECT-ICAP ELECTRICAL YEAR 3 MOTOR CONTROLS	90
HOUSE PROJECT-ICAP ELECTRICAL YEAR 4 GROUNDING, BONDING, EXAM PREP	90
CARPENTRY	90
DOT FORK LIFT CLASS (WP)	10
FIRE FIGHTING TRAINING	45
CHAINSAW TRAINING S212	10
CHAINSAW TRAINING DOC	10
DOT FLAGGING CERTIFICATION (WP)	10
KEYTRAIN CLASS (WP)	45



### Attachment 3: EDC COMS Instructions

The **EDC COMS Instructions** form is located at:

<M:\DOC\DOC Policies\Agency\DOC Policies\Attachment Templates\EDC Programs Instructions.doc>

#### Programs IEDC Review Screen

MONTHLY PROGRAMS IEDC REVIEW - (OIDMPRGC)

**Program IEDC Review**

Date\* July 2018 Facility\* Unit\* Retrieve Review Status IEDC Eligibility Check

**Offender Transactions**

DOC#	Offender	Txn #	INPD Override	Program	Date Completed	Days	Ineligibility Reason	Override

Override Reason Overridden By Accredited Programs Sentence History

Override Comment

**Completion and Approval**

IEDC Review Status\*

Completed By Completion Date Approved By Approval Date

#### Work IEDC Screen

MONTHLY WORK IEDC REVIEW - (OIDMWRKC)

**Work IEDC Review**

Date\* July 2018 Facility\* Unit\* Retrieve Review Status IEDC Eligibility Check

**Offender Transactions**

DOC#	Offender	Txn #	INPD Override	Work	Hours	Days	Ineligibility Reason	Override

Override Reason Overridden By Display Trust Account Sentence History Override Payroll

Override Comment

**Completion and Approval**

IEDC Review Status\*

Completed By Completion Date Approved By Approval Date

### Attachment 4: EDC Heroic Act Recommendation

The **EDC Heroic Act Recommendation** form is located at:

<M:\DOC\DOC Policies\Agency\DOC Policies\Attachment Templates\EDC Heroic Act Recommendation.doc>

Attachment 4

**RECOMMENDATION FOR EARNED DISCHARGE CREDITS  
HEROIC ACTS**

I. The inmate(s) listed under section V. are being recommended for an award of earned discharge credits for meeting the below criteria.

\_\_\_\_ Significant and courageous act(s) in life threatening situations

\_\_\_\_ Significant efforts in disaster response

\_\_\_\_ Exceptional assistance in maintaining the safety and security of a prison

II. Date(s) of act: \_\_\_\_\_

III. Description of act:

IV. Recommended award in days (not to exceed 365 days): \_\_\_\_\_

V. Eligible inmates for consideration (list below or attach list of inmates to include ID#):

VI. Warden Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

VII. Secretary of Corrections Decision

Approved

Denied

Amount of award (in days): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

If approved this document shall be provided to Central Records within 5 days for EDC application.

## Attachment 5: EDC Approval Timeline

The **EDC Approval Timeline** form is located at:

<M:\DOC\DOC Policies\Agency\DOC Policies\Attachment Templates\EDC Approval Timeline.doc>

Attachment 5

**EDC Approval Timeline:**

1. Inmate work hours entered by the Wednesday before payroll (general payroll runs the second Friday of each month).
2. On the first working day following payroll, unit staff completes the program IEDC review by 3pm CST.
3. Following step 2, central records checks program review (to determine if it is done, not to determine accuracy) and completes approval.
  - A batch report runs that night and work credits are applied to inmate sentences.
4. On the second working day following payroll, unit staff completes the work IEDC review by 3pm CST.
5. Following step 4, central records staff checks the program review (to determine if it is done, not to determine accuracy) and complete the approval.
6. A batch report runs that night and work credits are applied to inmate sentences.

**This timeline is provided solely for staff guidance. Nothing in this timeline may be the basis for establishing a constitutionally protected liberty, property or due process interest in any inmate.**

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### Attachment 6: Refusal of Earned Discharge Credits

The **Refusal of Earned Discharge Credits** form is available at:  
<M:\DOC\DOC Policies\Agency\DOC Policies\Attachment Templates\Refusal of EDC.doc>

South Dakota Department of Corrections Policy Distribution: Public	Attachment: Refusal of Earned Discharge Credits Please refer to DOC policy 1.4.B.17 Inmate Earned Discharge Credits
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**Request for Consideration of Refusal for Institutional Earned  
Discharge Credits**

Inmate Name: \_\_\_\_\_ DOC Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

(Inmate)  
Please provide a brief statement of why you want to refuse Institutional Earned Discharge Credits:

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Inmates Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Case Manager (printed name) acknowledging the issue was discussed \_\_\_\_\_

Case Manager Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(Case Manager Use Only)  
Explanation/outcome \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Upon completion of the information above in its entirety, offender can mail to the address below:

DOC Administration Office  
Attention: Evidence Based Practices Manager  
3200 East HWY 34  
Pierre, SD 57501

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