



# Mississippi

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PRISON PROGRAM

Bolivar County Regional Correctional Facility

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Bolivar County Regional Correctional Facility

Current FY2022 RSAT funded program

## OVERVIEW OF PROGRAM

The RSAT Program at the Bolivar County Regional Correctional Facility (BCRCF) was first funded in 2005. It has 66 beds for incarcerated men. At present, 37 are occupied. In the last calendar year, approximately 25 men completed the program (due to the response of COVID-19), which lasts 6 months. Participants are housed in a designated area where they eat and attend classes away from the general population. Depending on the specifics of their sentencing, successful completion of the program may result in a participant receiving time off the original sentence.

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

The Bolivar program has a recidivism rate of 9 percent, the lowest of any program in Mississippi.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA, SCREENING/ASSESSMENT, AND TREATMENT PLANNING

To be eligible for the Bolivar County RSAT Program, individuals must have been ordered at sentencing to complete a substance use disorder (SUD) program. They must also be within 18 months of scheduled release. In addition, if the charge is felony DUI and the person is within three years of release, he can voluntarily submit a request for the RSAT, or it can be recommended from a lead state agency. Also, as described in the Mississippi House Bill 2795 "Mississippi Earned Parole Eligibility Act" introduced in 2021, persons may be ordered to submit themselves to RSAT.

An initial assessment is done by the RSAT counselor using standard Mississippi Department of Mental Health forms to determine background and specific needs. Once an initial assessment is done, the counselor will compose a service plan based on the participant's needs assessment, substance use history, and short- and long-term goals. The treatment plan includes three objectives and three intervention services. Participants are considered to have completed the program when the treatment plan objectives have been met.

## MODALITY OF RSAT PROGRAM

The treatment program is a spiritually based program that focuses on change in all areas of life (physical, mental and spiritual). Participants are exposed to The Twelve (12) Step recovery principals. In addition to basic recovery skills, offenders are also instructed in Anger Management, Life and Parenting Skills, Relapse Prevention, Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT), Art and Recreational Therapy, Stress Management and Spirituality. All of the aforementioned courses consist of lectures, practical exercises, and group interactions. Instructional sessions in the recovery skills are conducted using Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), Narcotics Anonymous (NA) text and workbooks, and Keep It Simple Meditation.

All offenders receive at least one hour and thirty minutes of group session therapy per day (Monday-Friday) and individual counseling session- 1 hour per week (or as needed). Our program is twenty-four weeks long and the participants receive a certificate at the graduation ceremony. Graduating offenders remaining at this facility will enter a six month Aftercare Pre-Release Education class.

## CONTINUING CARE/REINTEGRATION

The RSAT continuing care coordinator conducts a continuing care needs assessment. RSAT alumni who are not at their release date upon completion return to the general population and go back to the RSAT dorm for classes two days a week. The coordinator provides referral information that allows the program participant to schedule an appointment with the area mental health center. Many use the state prison to facilitate access to services such as medications, obtaining a Social Security card or driver's license, and transportation to meetings with a parole officer.

## PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

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