

# Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS)

Fact Sheet 2021

## What is the FSS Program?

FSS is a program that enables individuals and families living in Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funded subsidized housing to increase their earned income and reduce their dependency on public benefits. FSS does this by providing resources to participating families to assist them in successfully achieving employment and financial goals.

## Who is eligible for the FSS program?

The FSS Program is open to Public Housing Authority (PHA) residents, individuals eligible for the Housing Choice Voucher Program Section 8 or the Section 8 Project-Based Voucher programs. Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act (NAHASDA) program participants are also eligible.

## How does FSS Work?

Families who wish to participate in FSS must develop an Individual Training and Services Plan (ITSP) or contract, which details the steps and supports necessary for them to be successful. The PHA will assign an FSS Coordinator to work with the family to develop the Plan and provide ongoing case management.

If approved, PHA will setup an interest-bearing escrow account which families must contribute to, and which can only be accessed according to the conditions and goals stated in the Plan. This 'savings' account is managed by a third party; in this case, it is the PHA.

## How is my FSS account funded?

Any increase in your family's rent due to work income will be deposited by the PHA into your escrow account.

## How do I enroll in the FSS program?

To enroll, speak with your PHA's FSS Coordinator. If you live in Project-Based Section 8 housing, contact your property manager.

**Note:** In order to participate, you must be actively seeking work or be employed. Other requirements may vary from PHA to PHA.

## What services are available under FSS?

The FSS Coordinator assists participants in obtaining a number of services including counseling, childcare, work-related transportation, education, job training, financial literacy, and home ownership, to name a few. **Note:** Services are often provided by a third-party, rather than the PHA.

## What can happen if I fail to complete the FSS?

If you do not meet your goals stated in your Plan, then the money in your escrow account will be returned to the PHA.

## Can I get housing after I complete my FSS?

The objective of FSS is to reduce dependency on subsidized housing. However, once you complete the FSS program, you can remain in public housing, as long as you are eligible.

For more information about **Work Without Limits Benefits Counseling** contact

1-877-YES-WORK (1-877-937-9675) or visit <http://www.workwithoutlimits.org/benefits-counseling/>