

SNYDER AND UNION COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITIES

FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Fact Sheet

What is Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS)?

FSS is a program which offers housing assistance as part of a coordinated program of housing, child care, transportation, personal and career counseling, adult education, job training and job placement to low income persons. Its goal is to assist highly motivated persons in becoming economically self-sufficient.

Who may apply?

Any head of household who:

- Currently participates in the Authority's Section 8 Rental Housing Choice Voucher program

How do I apply?

If you are interested in participating in the FSS Program, you must first contact Mary Anne Bridges at the Union County Housing Authority (522-1300) and express your interest in the program. You will be given an application which must be completed and returned within a timely manner (approximately 2 weeks).

What happens after I submit my application?

There are several steps in the FSS selection process:

- Applications will be screened and evaluated
- Selected applicants will be scheduled for interviews
- Qualified families will be notified of the continuation of their application process and scheduled to meet with a caseworker from the Union/Snyder Community Action Agency

What will happen after being selected for FSS program?

Each applicant family will work with an FSS caseworker to develop an action plan. Mutually agreed upon short and long-term goals will be established. These goals may include: finding adequate child care, obtaining a GED, securing reliable transportation, receiving job training and finding a job or finding a better job.

Once agreement has been reached on the action plan, the applicant will sign a Contract of Participation. Once this contract has been signed, you will be considered a participant in the FSS Program.

What are my responsibilities to the FSS Program:

You will be asked to sign the Contract of Participation and to work toward meeting the goals you have established. Your progress will be monitored and goals adjusted as necessary. You will be asked to make this program a priority and to work with a mentor from the community who will offer guidance and support as you move toward self-sufficiency.

What are the responsibilities of the FSS Program to me?

You will be provided with professional guidance through the Community Action Agency and the Housing Authority. Your success is our goal. You will be given the opportunity to accrue savings and other incentives to help you reach self-sufficiency. You will be provided with a mentor, who is a volunteer, and who will consult with you on a regular basis to help you achieve success.

Can I be terminated from the FSS Program?

The contract may be terminated by mutual consent or by failure to comply with the requirements of the Contract of Participation. However no penalties or withholding of assistance will result from termination.

On the other hand, for those households who achieve their Contract of Participation goals, the Authority will establish an FSS escrow account (money held on behalf of the household). Upon completion of the FSS Program, the family will receive the escrow funds to use as they see fit to ensure their successful transition from economic dependence to economic independence. For example, escrow funds could be used as a deposit for a market rate apartment or as a down payment on the purchase of a home.

Other incentives, such as a "Family Savings Account" through CAA, also may be available to the participants.

SNYDER & UNION COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITIES
 FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROGRAM
APPLICATION

All information provided on this application will remain confidential. The information you offer will be used solely to determine your level of interest in the program, the services you require, and your eligibility.

Please answer **all** questions as completely and accurately as possible:

Name _____ I (circle one) **am** / **am not**
 Address _____ receiving Section 8 rental
 City _____ assistance
 County **Snyder** _____ **Union** _____
 Telephone _____ **If no phone, how can we**
contact you? _____

1. Are you currently employed? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, how long have you been employed in your present job? _____
 What is your approximate annual **household** income? _____

2. What was the last grade of school that you completed? _____

3. Are you currently enrolled in any type of educational or skill development program? Yes _____ No _____
 If yes, please describe the program: _____

4. Which type of services would be most beneficial to you?
 (Check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Employment counseling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employment | <input type="checkbox"/> Child care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Job training | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health and nutrition | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal financial counseling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please list): _____ | |

5. Please describe, in your own words, why you and your family would benefit from the Family Self-Sufficiency program: _____

(use the back of this page for additional space if necessary)

6. What is the best time of day to contact you? (Day of week and time of day)

11