

Union County Housing Authority

Family Self Sufficiency

Fact Sheet :

What is Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS)?

The FSS program is a voluntary program that assists individuals in becoming economically self-sufficient and is available to adults who participate in the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program.

Participants must have a desire to become self-sufficient and a willingness to take the steps necessary to make it happen. Participation is open to anyone: employed or unemployed, students, those wanting to attend school, individuals or couples.

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?

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 County Housing Authority

What will happen after being selected for the 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 the responsibilities of the FSS Program to me?

Your success is our goal. You will be given the opportunity to accrue savings and other incentives to help you reach self-sufficiency.

Can I be terminated from the FSS Program?

The contact 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 on a market rate apartment or as a down payment on the purchase of a home.