

What is the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program?

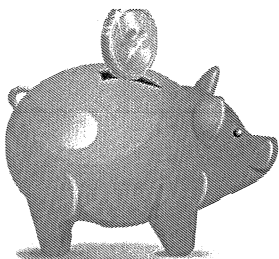
The Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program is a five-year program designed to improve your standard of living through higher-salaried employment, training, and/or education.

- FSS pulls together educational and/or support resources to help you attain self-sufficiency. You decide which services you would like to take advantage of: child care, career counseling, English as a Second Language, job training, and so forth. We will then develop a program for you based on your needs and preferences. Our services and your responsibilities will be listed in a contract between you and this agency. The contract will chart a course for attaining your personalized program goals.
- You will have to fulfill your contract responsibilities, making progress on your personalized program. The program may include attending GED classes; receiving vocational training; attending classes in homemaking, parenting, and money management; going for job placement; and receiving substance abuse or alcohol abuse counseling.
- The LHA provides rental assistance in accordance with the Section 8/HCV program. The agency will review with you, and draw up a detailed plan to meet the specific needs of your family. This plan will form the basis for the contract between you and the agency. We will assist you along the way, refer you to appropriate agencies, and monitor the progress of your family throughout the contract period.
- We will establish a savings account for you. As your household's earned income increases, you will pay a larger share of the rent. However, we will match the amount of the increased rent payment, and place it in a special escrow (savings) account in your name. This money, including interest earned, will be given to you upon successful completion of the program. The money will not be subject to taxes, and will not count as income when calculating Section 8/HCV rental assistance.
- If you do not complete the FSS Contract, you will **not** lose Section 8/HCV rental assistance. You will only lose any money previously placed in the FSS escrow account on your behalf.
- There are five ways to exit the program:
 - a. Successful completion
 - b. Interim mutual consent
 - c. Failure to meet contract terms
 - d. Expiration of the contract

If the contract is terminated before self-sufficiency is attained, you will no longer be an FSS participant, but **you will remain on the Section 8/HCV Rental Assistance Program.**

For More Information:

Contact the Lakewood Housing Authority and let us know you're interested in the Family Self-Sufficiency Program



Lakewood Housing Authority
Family Self-Sufficiency Program
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WITH FSS, DREAMS CAN COME TRUE!