

STEPS TO SELF SUFFICIENCY

Quick guide


- ✓ 1. Establish goals
- ✓ 2. Obtain and/or maintain employment
- ✓ 3. Become independent from TANF for last twelve months of participation in FSS Program



**EARN MORE INCOME AND
ESCROW (SAVINGS) GROWS**



**COMPLETE PROGRAM AND
GRADUATE**

	1554
DATE: IT'S UP TO YOU	
Pay to the Order of FSS GRADUATE	\$ 10,000
Ten Thousand 00/100	Dollars
FSS PROGRAM BANK 222 Self Sufficiency Street	<i>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR</i>
Memo	

PROGRAM PURPOSE

The purpose of the FSS Program is to empower people to take control of their lives by providing the necessary tools and resources to assist participants in becoming independent and self-sufficient. This program does not simply attack the symptoms of poverty, it tackles dependency on all fronts and replaces powerlessness with empowerment and the opportunity for a better future.

CONTACT US



Housing Authority of Cook County (HACC)
175 W. Jackson Blvd., Suite 350
Chicago, IL 60604

Email: FSS@thehacc.org

Call Us:

FSS South Suburban Office 708-825-9225
FSS North Suburban Office 312-735-4059



FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROGRAM



**PLAN TODAY FOR A
BETTER TOMORROW**

GET ON THE PATH

The goal of the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program is to assist participants with improving their education and job skills for the purpose of becoming gainfully employed. This is accomplished by encour-

PATH TO FINANCIAL FREEDOM



aging additional education, job training, and more. FSS Program participants are required to establish goals such as completing educational training, resolving personal issues that are hindering their advancement, and actively working towards reaching their goals. For completion of the FSS Program, participants must reach established goals, obtain and maintain employment throughout their participation in the program, and become independent of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), if applicable, for the last consecutive twelve months of their membership on the program.

HOW THE FSS PROGRAM WORKS

Complete a FSS pre-application, which can be obtained from an FSS Coordinator or our website at www.thehacc.org, and return the completed application to our main office (see back of pamphlet for address). When you have been selected from the wait list, you will be notified by program staff and they will schedule a meeting to establish and document your goals. You will sign your FSS Contract of Participation, and provide information to program staff that will help you to achieve your goals.

Once you either begin working or your current employment income increases, you will begin earning escrow, which is a savings account that you will receive upon successfully completing your personal goals and the FSS Program.



While a tenant in the HCV Program, each instance where your rent is increased, due to an increase in your income, the difference in the new rent amount from the previous rent is set aside by the HACC in an escrow account that earns interest.

SERVICES

Case Management

Identify current personal and professional needs of participants

Work with participants to establish both short and long term S.M.A.R.T goals* and objectives

Assist in identifying strategies to enable participants to successfully reach goals and objectives

Referral Support Services

- ▶ Employment Counseling
- ▶ Transportation
- ▶ Education
- ▶ Job and Computer Training
- ▶ Child Care Assistance
- ▶ Substance/Alcohol Abuse Treatment or Counseling
- ▶ Household Skill Training
- ▶ Homeownership Counseling
- ▶ Credit Counseling and Credit Repair
- ▶ And much more...

* S.M.A.R.T. goals:

Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-Bound



Building Communities and Changing Lives.....
175 W. Jackson Blvd., Suite 350 • Chicago, IL 60604 • (312) 663-5447

Family Self-Sufficiency Program Pre-Application

The goal of the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program is to assist participants in improving their education and job skills for the purpose of becoming gainfully employed. This is accomplished by encouraging additional education, job training, and more.

The FSS Program routinely collaborates with community agencies to provide the resources that are necessary to assist participants in reaching their goals. Resources include services such as childcare, transportation, budgeting assistance, and credit repair. Existing GED programs, college courses, and local vocational and trade schools are utilized to assist participants in their educational needs.

The FSS participant will be required to establish goals such as completing educational training, resolving personal issues, and actively working towards reaching their goals. For completion of the FSS Program, the participant must reach established goals, obtain and maintain employment throughout their participation in the program (ultimately securing full-time employment), and become independent of all TANF cash assistance for the last consecutive twelve months of their membership on the program.

To be eligible for the FSS Program, the head-of-household must currently receive rental assistance in either the Housing Choice Voucher program or the Conventional Housing program. The HACC FSS Program is a five (5) year program and is voluntary; therefore, only people who are genuinely interested in improving their life should participate!

Escrow Account Contribution

Participants who become employed after signing the FSS contract will develop an escrow account when their portion of rent increases. When the participant pays an increased rent amount resulting from earned income (wages), the difference between what the initial rent was when the participant started the program and the increased will be deposited in the escrow account. This is an interest bearing savings account that receives monthly contributions based on the tenant's rent increase. Upon completion of the FSS contract, the funds in the account are given to the FSS participant.

EXAMPLE:

<u>Client Activity</u>	<u>Annual Income</u>	<u>Rent</u>	<u>Escrow Contribution</u>
Enter the FSS Program	\$2,256.00	\$50.00	\$-0-
Attend Training Program	\$2,256.00	\$50.00	\$-0-
Become Employed	\$15,000.00	\$250.00	\$200.00

(Initial rent of \$50.00 – rent increase to \$250.00 = \$200.00. That \$200.00 is deposited into an escrow account).

Don't put your career goals on hold for another day! Get started building your future and becoming self-sufficient by completing the attached pre-application form and returning it to:

Housing Authority of Cook County (HACC)
175 W. Jackson Blvd., Suite 350, Chicago, IL 60604
Email: FSS@thehacc.org

FSS South Suburban Office: 708-825-9225
FSS North Suburban Office: 312-735-4059



Family Self-Sufficiency Program Pre-Application

“A.C.T.I.O.N.”

*“Whatever you think you can do or believe you can do, begin it.
Action has magic, grace, and power in it – Johann Goethe.”*

Date: _____ **Client Number** _____

Name: _____
Last First Middle / Maiden

Social Security Number: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____
Number Street City/State/Zip

Phone: _____ Home
Work Cell

Email address: _____

Which HACC type of housing assistance do you currently receive?

Public Housing Housing Choice Voucher Other

Do you have a high school diploma? Yes No or **GED?** Yes No

Check the last grade you completed:

Some High School High School Some College College Post Graduate N/A

Have you participated in any vocational training programs? Yes No

If yes, which program(s) and when? _____

What additional education do you feel you need? Check all that apply.

High School or GED College courses College Degree Vocational courses

Are there any problems or reasons that would prevent you from enrolling in a training or educational program now?

Yes No

If yes, please briefly explain: _____

What services do you think you and your family need?

Child Care Job Training Career Counseling Personal counseling Transportation Family Management Other:

Source(s) of Income:

TANF Child Support Unemployment Spousal Support Grant Employment Other:

A.C.T.I.O.N: Achievement Change Tenacity Independence Optimistic Networking
