



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 Department Telephone Numbers  
 South Region: 312-568-6299 or 708-932-1386  
 North Region: 312-735-4059



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## **Family Self-Sufficiency Program Pre-Application**

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: