

# 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**

 HOUSING AUTHORITY OF COOK COUNTY	1554
DATE: <u>IT'S UP TO YOU</u>	
Pay to the Order of <u>FSS GRADUATE</u>	\$ 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)  
FSS Department  
175 W. Jackson Blvd., Suite 350  
Chicago, IL 60604  
(312) 542-4728

HACC Main Telephone: (312) 663-5447



## 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 encouraging

### PATH TO FINANCIAL FREEDOM



additional education, job training, and more.

FSS Program participants are required to establish goals such as completing educational training, re-

solving 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](http://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