

City of Tempe
Human Services Department



Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) Program

What is FSS?

The Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) Program is a voluntary five year program designed to assist Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) participants who wish to become financially independent by seeking and maintaining employment and staying free from welfare assistance. You will work with an FSS Specialist who can help you find resources to work on the goals you choose. Goals may include but are not limited to completing a GED, furthering your education, job readiness, finding supportive services, career counseling, preparing for homeownership, and/or financial education. As the FSS participant meets their goals and completes the contract, they become eligible to receive the funds from their escrow/savings account.

What is an FSS escrow account?

There is a financial incentive to participate in the FSS program! The escrow/savings account is an interest-bearing account established by the housing authority for each participating family. Money is placed in an escrow /savings account as your rent portion increases along with your earned income. (The amount of the increase is what is deposited in your account each month) This escrow account may be used for down payment on a new home, to pay off debts, purchase a car or whatever you choose to use it for. Remember— they money is only yours if you complete the program. If you quit or do not complete the program the money from the escrow account is forfeited.

Do I have to give up my Housing Choice Voucher if I participate in FSS?

No, you do not have to give up your Section 8 Housing Voucher after completing the FSS program.

Not sure if you are ready?

The best time to join FSS is when you are preparing to work on your financial and educational goals. Achieving self sufficiency can be hard work, and your FSS Specialist will be there to help you make a plan and support you along the way from the beginning.

How do I start the FSS program?

The first step will be to contact the FSS Specialist and let them know you are interested. You will receive an FSS request for participation packet to complete to help us get to know you and what you would like to work on. You will attend a briefing session (currently a phone appointment) with the FSS Specialist where you will develop goals for the program. The last step will be signing an FSS participation contract.



Contact the City of Tempe FSS Specialist by emailing
Karen_Davis@tempe.gov or call 480-647-8602 today!

