

## What Is Family Self Sufficiency?

Supportive Services

Saving Money

No Penalty!

Commitment

Desire



**"Helping You Help Yourself"**

If you think that you would be interested in participating in the FSS Program, please complete an FSS Application, and return it to your local Housing Office.

Your name will be placed on the FSS Waiting List for participation.

When a position becomes available, you will be contacted for an appointment.

We look forward to working with you in achieving your goals of  
**SELF SUFFICIENCY !**



**Housing Authority of the County of Santa Barbara**

Resident Services Center  
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*An introduction to the  
FSS Program*



**Housing Authority of the County of Santa Barbara**

## *Family Self Sufficiency Program*



**The FSS Program is a voluntary resource & incentive savings program that can help you climb the ladder of success.**

**How high could you climb?**

# *The FSS Program*

## **What Is FSS?**

Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) is a voluntary resource and incentive savings program designed to help Section 8 families ease off of government subsidies and transition into a life of social and economic independence and self sufficiency.

## **Commitment**

All Family Self Sufficiency participants must sign a Contract of Participation and make a commitment to become employed, and economically independent within five (5) years. During the (5) year term, the FSS Participant works and/or attends school and training programs that can assist them in achieving their goals. The FSS Program assists in securing the resources to help the family overcome obstacles that may prevent them from achieving their goals.

***YOU CAN DO IT!!!!***

***We Can Help!!!***

## **Financial Incentive - The Escrow!**

A financial incentive may be available through the establishment of an Escrow Account. An Escrow Account is a special savings account held in the family's name by the Housing Authority. When the family experiences an **INCREASE** in **EARNED INCOME**, (**wages**), which results in an increase in the family's rental portion, the Housing Authority will match a portion of that increase **with HA funds** and put the money into an Escrow Account. The FSS Participant will continue to pay their rent to their landlord in accordance with the normal Section 8 program procedures. Once the family has met its obligations according to their FSS Contract of Participation, they are eligible to receive the Escrow Account. How these funds may be used is entirely up to the family.

## **There Is No Risk To You!**

Family Self Sufficiency Participants **will not lose** their Section 8 assistance if they find that they cannot meet the commitments of their FSS Contract of Participation. FSS Participants may leave the FSS Program at any time without losing their Section 8 housing assistance, and will not be penalized for making an effort to become self sufficient. However, participants who quit the FSS Program, fail to meet graduation requirements, or are terminated from housing assistance for program violation will not be eligible to receive the Escrow Account, and any monies would be forfeited.

## **FSS Fun Facts**

The HACSB has successfully graduated (36) FSS Participants since 1999, and (12) of those families have moved into homeownership.

The HACSB has disbursed more than \$274 thousand dollars in Escrow funds to FSS Graduates.

## **The Ideal Candidate:**

- 1) Will have the desire to be free of welfare / government subsidies.
- 2) Will be committed to reaching their goals.
- 3) Will be determined to overcome obstacles in their path.
- 4) Will be willing to learn and attend education / training programs.
- 5) Will be in compliance with Section 8 Program Obligations.
- 6) Will be willing to work to increase their earned income to the best of their ability.

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