

Family Self-Sufficiency Program (FSS)

FSS Program is a voluntary five-year program available to families receiving assistance through the Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCV) with Stanislaus Regional Housing Authority. The program is designed to help families become financially independent of cash aid assistance by obtaining employment. Successful participating families are rewarded with a savings account that is established by Stanislaus Regional Housing Authority. Additionally, the Authority's commitment to its program participants is solidified by Stanislaus Regional Housing Authority partnering and collaborating with a variety of local service providers who are equally interested in helping families reach their goal of self-sufficiency. Services may include career counseling, education (GED and beyond), financial literacy, job training, parenting skills, and homeownership preparation – all provided to you by a bilingual staff interested in celebrating your success on the FSS Program



WHAT REQUIREMENTS MUST A FAMILY MEET TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FSS PROGRAM?

The Five-Year FSS Contract of Participation (COP) specifies goals and services for each participant designated as head of household for the FSS program. FSS participants must fulfill all requirements to successfully complete the program, be eligible for evaluation of graduation from the program, and ultimately receive the FSS escrow funds at the end of their program participation. Also, the FSS COP requires that the family comply with the lease, that all family members become independent of welfare, and that the FSS head of household for the family seek and maintain suitable employment. Possible sanctions for non-compliance with the FSS contract are termination from the FSS Program, forfeiture of the FSS escrow account, and withholding and/or termination of supportive services.

WHAT IS THE FSS ESCROW ACCOUNT?

Stanislaus Regional Housing Authority establishes an interest-bearing FSS Escrow Account for each participating family. An FSS escrow account is based on increases in the earned income of the family and is credited to the account during the term of the FSS COP. Stanislaus Regional Housing Authority may make a portion of this escrow account available to the family during the term of the contract to enable the family to complete an interim goal such as education.

When a participating family successfully completes the COP and no member of the family is receiving cash assistance, the amount of the FSS escrow account is paid to the head of the family. If the PHA terminates the FSS contract, or if the family fails to complete the contract before its expiration, the family's FSS escrow funds are forfeited.

ELIGIBILITY:

The FSS Program is open to all Housing Choice Voucher Program Participants and Public Housing Residents who are:

- Motivated to change their life
- willing to seek and maintain suitable employment
- Interested in developing a plan to direct their goals
- Determined and committed to becoming free from government assistance



Contact us today;

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**Let us help you on your journey
towards Self-Sfficiency**