



FAMILY SELF SUFFICIENCY



SCAN TO GET
STARTED
TODAY!



**Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS)
PROGRAM**

**FREE MONEY
DEPOSITED INTO
YOUR ESCROW**

**BOOST YOUR
INCOME WITH OUR
SUPPORT**

**BUILD SKILLS TO
MANAGE YOUR
FINANCES
EFFECTIVELY**

**RECEIVE GUIDANCE
TAILORED TO YOUR
CHOSEN GOALS**

**WATCH YOUR
SAVINGS GROW AS
YOUR EARNINGS
RISE**

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What is the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program?

This voluntary program is designed for Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) participants eager to achieve financial independence. You'll partner with a dedicated FSS Case Manager to celebrate your strengths, overcome challenges, and set and reach meaningful goals. Plus, the program supports your dream of homeownership with a special rental reimbursement feature called escrow credit.

How does the escrow credit work?

The escrow credit can only accrue if an FSS participant receives earned income from employment. It is calculated from the participant's rental increase and placed into a separate interest-bearing account. It is disbursed once the participant has met the FSS program requirements.

Can the escrow help me pay a debt that I have?

You can use your escrow funds for a variety of purposes, such as paying off debts, purchasing a home or car, or covering school loans—whatever aligns with your dreams! If you owe money to the housing authority, we'll gently deduct that amount from your escrow first. Plus, if unexpected expenses pop up that support your goals, we'll review those on a case-by-case basis to help keep you on track.

What are the requirements?

The requirements set by the FSS program for participants are as follows: to meet regularly with the Family Self-Sufficiency Case Manager in order to determine personal goals and progress, become independent of cash assistance (i.e. TANF) at the time of graduation before the contract expires, seek and maintain employment and comply with your lease and the FSS Contract of Participation.

What is the FSS Contract of Participation?

When you join the Family Self-Sufficiency Program, you'll sign this special agreement with the Housing Authority of Erie County. This up-to-five-year contract is your roadmap, outlining everyone's rights and responsibilities. It includes a personalized Individual Training and Services Plan, tailored to the FSS Head of Household, highlighting your unique goals and the activities and support services to help you achieve them.

What are the benefits of participation?

You'll have access to a wealth of support and resources tailored to your journey, including referrals for: * Education Assistance * Job Training * Career Planning * Crisis Intervention * Stress Management * Substance Abuse treatment and counseling * Child Care * Transportation * Money Management * Credit Counseling * Homeownership Preparation

Will the program affect my voucher?

The program is totally voluntary and will never affect your voucher! You can withdraw at any time!