

Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS)

What is FSS?

The Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program works with families to help enable them to achieve economic independence. The program aims to connect families to supportive services that will allow them to obtain education and training, helping to widen employment opportunities.

The program runs for 5 years (2 year extension may be granted). During this time the family and the FSS coordinator work to develop goals and plans to lead the family to self-sufficiency. Participants are expected to obtain stable employment and be welfare free. The participant can withdraw from the program at any time, but escrow funds will not be paid unless the contract terms are met. Every participant will be at a different level based on their own particular needs.

Who is Eligible?

FSS is open to all Housing Choice Voucher clients who have already executed a lease and are in good standing.

What is an Escrow Account?

Once a participant has an increase in rent due to earned income she/he may be eligible for an escrow account. The Walton County Housing Agency will establish an interest bearing savings account for the family. Deposits will be made according to the difference in the base rent at admission to the FSS program and increases in rent due to earned income. Once the family successfully completes the program the escrow account will be paid out to the head of household. The intentions of these funds are to provide the family with the means to better their life and perhaps purchase a home of their own.

Is FSS for Me?

The FSS program is for anyone who is interested in furthering their education and their careers. It is for families who are tired of being low-income and want to get off of assistance. It is for people who are ready to work and want to maximize their potential for a better life.

How do I Enroll?

To learn more about FSS speak with a housing program coordinator. Complete an FSS application and provide details about your current situation. If there is an available slot an interview will be scheduled. If accepted the family will be required to sign a FSS contract of participation.