

An opportunity for families living in CMHA-assisted housing to become self-sufficient by increasing their earned income.

[Download the FSS Brochure](#)

## **Family Self-Sufficiency Program FAQ's**



### **1) Is the Family Self-Sufficiency Program (FSS) for me?**

You are qualified if:

- You want to work and/or are able to work
- You possess a Housing Choice Voucher or live in Public Housing
- CMHA is paying a portion of your rent

### **2) If I am already working, can I still join the FSS Program?**

Yes.

### **3) What is the FSS Escrow Account?**

CMHA establishes an interest-bearing escrow (savings) account for each FSS participant. As you work toward your goals, and your **earned income increases**, CMHA makes contributions to this account.

### **4) Does the escrow start as soon as I sign the FSS Contract?**

No, the escrow never starts when you sign the contract or when the contract becomes effective. The FSS Escrow does not begin to accrue until the family has an increase in *earned income* above what is stated in the FSS Contract at enrollment.

### **5) How much escrow will I receive?**

The amount of escrow depends on your family's income as it varies throughout the term of your Family Self-Sufficiency Contract. Some families do not earn escrow at all but are still successful at completing their self-sufficiency goals.

### **6) What are the benefits of FSS besides the escrow account?**

The FSS Team provides on-going support, assistance, and referrals to area resources to assist participants with completing their self-sufficiency goals throughout their duration in the program.

### **7) How do I get started?**

1. Contact the FSS Team at [FSS@cmhanet.com](mailto:FSS@cmhanet.com) to request an application to get enrolled in the FSS program.
2. [Create a Gmail account](#) (Effective 10/1/2020 all FSS participants must have a Gmail account to complete the application, enrollment process, and fully participate in the FSS program).
3. Attend an orientation meeting when you receive an invitation email from the FSS Coordinator.
4. Sign a contract with CMHA with the self-sufficiency goals.

### **8) I have submitted my FSS Application. What happens next?**

Submit an FSS  
Application

Receive Invite to FSS  
Orientation

Enroll in the Family Self-  
Sufficiency Program!