

# Frequently Asked Questions about the Housing Choice Voucher Program Family Self-Sufficiency Program

## 1. What is the Family Self-Sufficiency Program?

Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) is a Program to assist families to achieve economic independence, Self-Sufficiency, and freedom from dependence on various governmental assistance programs.

## 2. Who is eligible to participate in FSS?

All current Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) families are eligible to participate. The head of the household and/or family members 18 or older are eligible.

## 3. What types of services will be provided in conjunction with FSS?

The services that may be provided include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Adult Education (includes GED);
- Workshops in homemaking, parenting, skills, and financial management;
- Home buying workshops and counseling;
- Other services necessary to help participating families become self-sufficient.

## 4. What will be my obligation if I choose to participate in FSS?

Each participating family or family member will sign a Contract of Participation (COP). Also, each family member participating will complete a Training and Service Plan (TSP). The TSP spells out the services to be provided and the obligations the families or family member agrees to undertake.

## 5. What is an Escrow Savings Account and how does it benefit FSS families?

The escrow account offers a family or family member the opportunity to save for the future. During the term of the Contract of Participation, the Housing Authority of the City of Charleston (CHA) will establish an interest-bearing escrow account for the FSS family. Whenever there is a rent increase due to earned income of family members, the family will pay their portion toward the contract rent and the HA will deposit part or the same amount to the family's escrow account.

Families or family members who leave the FSS Program without completing the Contract of Participation (COP) will forfeit their escrow account.

Monies received from escrow accounts may be used in various ways, i.e. down payment on a home, car, college tuition, etc.

**6. Who should I contact for information about FSS?**

Contact Latrinia Holmes-Lucas at 843-805-3292.