

# Family Self Sufficiency

This program rewards you for working!

Going to work can be a difficult decision. There may be barriers that keep an individual from steady employment. Financial assistance can be cut, food stamps reduced, child care costs rise, transportation, literacy, family issues, past financial problems, etc. We want to help.

## What is it?

The Family Self Sufficiency program is an employment and savings incentive program for any family that has a Housing Choice Section 8 Voucher. The FSS Program can assist families by helping individuals get started on their way to employment. Achieving these goals leads to saving money and ultimately, economic independence.

## What is in it for me?

The FSS Program has two main components: Case Management and Escrow Funds.

**Case Management:** Families receive case management services to identify employment goals. Individuals will be assisted in gaining access to community resources and supportive services.

**Escrow Funds:** HUD will deposit funds into an Escrow Account account every time your tenant share of the rent is increased due to a raise in earned household income.

## Who can participate?

You are welcome to participate in the FSS Program if:

- You hold a voucher with Berkshire Housing's Section 8 Program, have a signed lease and contract,
- Have a willingness to work toward self sufficiency and,
- The head of your household is 18 years of age or older.

## What will I have to do?

Participants work with the FSS Coordinator to develop an Individual Training & Services Plan. This plan outlines goals and services needed to achieve your goals. Participants are required to make a long term commitment, agree to the service plan and sign a five-year contract.

## Why should I participate?

You'll have an opportunity to earn and save money. Most importantly, when your rent costs go up, your escrow account will grow.

Some FSS participants have gone on to purchase a home with their escrow!



## **What kind of support will I receive?**

The FSS Coordinator will help families move ahead to job training and employment through coordination of some of the following:

### **Vocational Counseling**

#### **Training Workshops:**

Job Readiness • Self-Esteem • Budget Management • Stress Management • Parenting Skills

#### **Coordinated Services:**

DET • Mass Jobs • JTPA • Education Job Parenting • ESL • GED • Day Care Mental Health • Transportation Substance Abuse

## **Who can I contact to get more information?**

Berkshire Housing  
Development Corporation's  
**FSS Coordinator**  
**413-499-4887**  
74 North Street  
Pittsfield, MA 01201

# **Take a giant step toward your dreams.**



**The  
Family Self Sufficiency  
Program**