

Who can benefit from FSS?

Mary and Peter came to the U.S. four years ago. Due to their limited English skills, they struggled to find jobs that would support their family. The Family Self-Sufficiency Program gave them support and financial assistance. They completed ESL classes through Southeast Community College, and Mary obtained her associates degree from SCC in accounting. They are now U.S. citizens, have full-time jobs and hope to become homeowners in the near future.

Kent and Dora liked their public housing unit, but had dreamed about becoming homeowners. They both had good jobs, but struggled to save money for a down payment. They joined the Family Self-Sufficiency Program and developed a plan to become homeowners. Because of their involvement in FSS, they were eligible for LHA's homeownership program, which provides down payment assistance for their new home.

Lucie worked as a housekeeper in a nursing home. She wanted to earn her CNA and medication aide certification, but was unsure how to start the process. Lucie's FSS coordinator guided her and helped her with resources to go to school. She was able to achieve her goals and is now employed full time as a CNA/medication aide. Lucie is proud of her accomplishments and loves helping people in her job.

Stephen was already attending classes at SCC when he heard about the FSS Program. With support from the program, he transferred to UNL and completed his bachelor's degree in education. He now enjoys his full-time job as an elementary teacher, and his family no longer receives any public assistance.

(Fictional stories are based on real stories of FSS participants.)

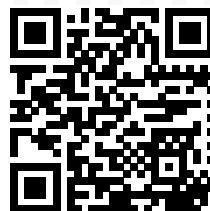
What services are provided?

The FSS coordinator can help you find the services you need to become self-sufficient. These may include:

- Educational programs (GED, ESL, ABE and college)
- Career assessments
- Job training
- Child care
- Counseling
- Case management
- Credit counseling
- Home ownership preparation
- Coordination with other service providers and agencies
- Ticket to Work Program

Contact an FSS coordinator

Courtney Gadeken 402-434-5529 or courtney@L-housing.com
Amy Wagner 402-434-5527 or awagner@L-housing.com
LHA switchboard 402-434-5500
TDD 1-800-545-1833 ext. 875
Website www.L-housing.com
FSS information www.L-housing.com/FamilySelfSufficiency.html



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Family Self-Sufficiency Program



What is the Family Self-Sufficiency program?

The Family Self-Sufficiency program (FSS) helps individuals and families support themselves so they no longer need public assistance.

The program is voluntary and available to most adults who participate in the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program or who live in public housing through LHA. Participants must have a desire to become self-sufficient and a willingness to take the steps necessary to make it happen. Participation is open to anyone: employed or unemployed, students or those wanting to attend school, married couples or single persons.

Home Ownership

FSS program participants can become eligible for LHA's home ownership program, which provides down payment assistance for the purchase of a home. Additional eligibility criteria apply. Contact the FSS program for additional details.

How does FSS work?

The FSS program provides support and assistance to participants for up to five years. The head of the household enters into an agreement with LHA. A goal plan, developed by participants with assistance from LHA, identifies education and employment goals and outlines activities and services necessary to achieve these goals.

LHA's FSS coordinator helps the participant obtain the services listed in the plan and supports or coaches the family during the term of the contract. The coordinator helps the family find services and resources to help them achieve their goals. LHA establishes a savings account when the family increases its earned income.

How does the savings account work?

When rent increases due to higher earnings, a percentage of the increase may be placed in a savings account for FSS participants. The money in the account, plus interest, is received by participants when the FSS contract has been successfully completed. In some cases, FSS participants use the money to reach goals for education, debt reduction, reliable transportation and even home ownership. Once they receive the savings account, FSS graduates choose how to use the money.



Do I have to give up housing assistance?

No. FSS participants continue to receive housing assistance as long as they are eligible. The FSS program is intended to help participants move toward self-sufficiency. Many have achieved high school or college degrees and obtained good jobs and careers.

Climb life's ladder

Self-sufficient, debt-free, home ownership, reliable transportation

Full time job

Job search

College

Job Training

GED, ESL, ABE

What are the steps on your ladder?

If you would like to learn more about LHA's Family Self-Sufficiency Program, complete the following and mail to LHA, 5700 R Street, Lincoln, NE 68505

Date _____

Head of household _____

Social Security Number _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Language spoken at home _____

Interpreter requested?

Yes ___ No ___

Housing Program

___ Housing voucher

___ Public Housing

___ Other or unknown

I understand this does not enroll me in the program, but I will receive additional forms to complete. A visit by a Family Self-Sufficiency coordinator will be scheduled to fully explain the program and, at that time, I can decide if my family would benefit from this program. This is a voluntary program that does not affect my eligibility for housing.

**Lincoln Housing Authority**

5700 "R" Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68505