

Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program

Rhode Island Fact Sheet 2025

What is the Family Self-Sufficiency Program?

Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) is a program that enables individuals and families living in Rhode Island and are in the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program, to increase their earned income and reduce their dependency on public benefits. FSS does this by providing resources for participating families and assist them in successfully achieving employment and financial goals. FSS is a voluntary housing program designed to assist families in utilizing community resources, such as education, job training and supportive services.

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Who may apply for the FSS program?

- Any Head of Household, 18 years of age or older, who is currently a Housing Choice Voucher Program participant (Section 8).
- To participate, you must be either actively seeking work or employed. Other requirements may vary, depending on the Housing Authority.
- To enroll, speak with your Housing Authority's FSS Coordinator.

How does FSS Work?

Families who wish to participate in FSS must develop an Individual Training and Services Plan (ITSP) or contract, which details the steps and supports necessary for success. An FSS coordinator will be assigned to work with the family to develop a plan and to provide ongoing case management support.

How long does the FSS program last?

You sign a five-year contract when you enroll in FSS.

How is my FSS account funded?

While participating in the FSS program, an increase in earned income (e.g., income from work) may result in the creation of an escrow account which provides an incentive to keep increasing your income. As your income increases, the difference between your previous and new income will be automatically deposited into this account each month, which will continue to grow while you are participating in FSS.

Can I get housing after I complete my FSS?

The objective of FSS is to reduce dependency on subsidized housing. However, once you complete the FSS program, you can remain in public housing, if you are eligible.

What are the graduation requirements?

There are three requirements you must meet to graduate from the program:

1. Be suitably employed at the time of graduation
2. All household members will need to be free of cash welfare assistance for at least 12 months prior to graduation
3. You must achieve the goals you set during the program.

For more information about
Work Without Limits Benefits Counseling
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1-877-YES-WORK (1-877-937-9675)
or visit
WorkWithoutLimits.org