

Family Self-Sufficiency

The background of the slide is a photograph showing the silhouettes of two people standing on a dark mountain ridge. They are positioned with their bicycles. The person on the right is holding a bicycle, and the person on the left is also with a bicycle. The sky is a deep blue with wispy white clouds, and a bright light source, likely the sun, is visible behind the clouds, creating a glow. The overall scene is peaceful and suggests a sense of accomplishment or a journey.

Lonoke County
Housing Authority

What is FSS and how does it work?

FSS is a HUD program that encourages communities to develop local strategies to help assisted families obtain employment that will lead to economic independence.

Who is an eligible?

All families that receive assistance housing assistance through Lonoke Co. Housing Authority are eligible for the FSS Program.

What is the criteria to be an FSS Participant?

The Head of Household must volunteer to participate in the FSS Program.

The Head of the Household will then sign the “FSS Program Contract of Participation”.

(Families are NOT penalized if they do not wish to participate.)

The Contract of Participation

- states the rights and responsibilities of the family and the Housing Authority
- resources and supportive services to be provided to the family
- the activities to be completed by the family
- states that the HOH will seek and maintain suitable employment
- is a FIVE YEAR contract

What are the obligations of the contract?

- **MUST** maintain contact with the FSS Coordinator as agreed upon
- Complete the activities (self set goals) by the set date

Incentive for signing up

- within 5 years your family should be financially self-sufficient
- Homeownership opportunities
- an ESCROW ACCOUNT will be established for your family!!

Escrow Account

- As your families earned income (from adult family members) increase your portion of the rent will also increase. (This will happen whether you are on the FSS program or not.)
- But if you are a FSS Participant, usually, the amount of your rent increase will be placed in an escrow account for your family.

Escrow Account

For example:

- When your family signs the FSS contract you are paying \$50 of your rent
- 20 months later – you get a much better job, at that point your portion of the rent goes up to \$400 a month
- the Housing Authority will put \$350 EVERY MONTH into your escrow account

Escrow Account

If you stayed at that amount the rest of your contract you will have \$14,000 in escrow!

You receive the amount in escrow PLUS interest once the contract is completed!



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