



What is the Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) Program?

The FSS Program is a five (5) year voluntary program designed to assist Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8 Rental Assistance) participants achieve economic independence by working towards functioning independent of public assistance.

It is a self-paced program. You set your goals and timelines and we help you to find the resources needed to help you achieve your goals and become self-sufficient.



Who is Eligible to Participate in the FSS Program?

Current participants of the County of Maui

Housing Choice Voucher Program who are able to work and want to become self-sufficient may be eligible for participation in the FSS Program.

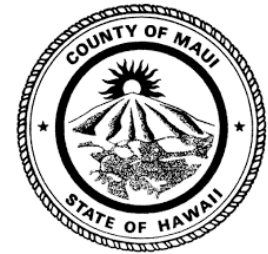


Can the FSS Program Help Me Purchase a Home?

The County of Maui encourages families to use their escrow savings upon graduation for a down payment on their first home.

County of Maui
Department of Housing and Human Concerns
Section 8 Rental Assistance Program
2065 Main Street, Suite 108
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii 96793

Family Self Sufficiency



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How Do I Sign Up for the FSS Program?

- * Indicate that you are interested by filling out the form included in this brochure.
- * Develop your short and long term goals and timelines on an Individual Training and Services Plan (ITSP). At this time, you will set goals for yourself and identify any milestones to meeting these goals.
- * Sign an FSS Contract of Participation (COP)
- * Complete the goals listed on your ITSP and fulfill the terms of the COP – Graduate and earn your escrow!



What is the FSS Contract?

This five-year contract outlines the rights and responsibilities of each party and also specifies your goals. The FSS contract requires that you comply with the terms of your lease, that all family members become independent of welfare cash assistance and that the head of the family seeks and maintains suitable employment.

Do I Have to Give Up My Rental Assistance When I Complete My FSS Participation?

No. You can continue to receive rental assistance for as long as you are eligible after you complete your participation in the FSS Program.



How Does the Escrow Account Work?

Normally, under the Housing Choice Voucher Program, if your earned income increases, you simply pay more money towards your rent.

But when you are in the FSS Program and your earned income increases, an escrow savings account is established when your rent increases due to an increase in your earned income. (Escrow account credits are based on a formula established by HUD and may not match increase in rental portions dollar for dollar.)

If you successfully complete your FSS Contract, you will receive a check equal to the amount saved in the FSS escrow account. This amount received is *tax free!* All decisions on disbursements are recommended by the FSS Specialist and approved by the HCV Program Manager.

I have read the Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) brochure and am interested in learning more and possibly signing up for the FSS Program.

Name of Head of Household

Signature

E-mail Address

Phone Number

Date



How Do You Successfully Graduate from the FSS Program?

To successfully graduate from the FSS program, ALL of the following criteria must be met:

- * Complete all goals listed on your ITSP within the five (5) years.
- * Head of Household must be employed at time of contract expiration.
- * All family members need to be free of welfare cash assistance for **at least** 12 months prior to contract expiration.
- * Family must be in good standing with the County of Maui Housing Division's Housing Choice Voucher Program.

CONTACT INFORMATION

KIM NEMOTO
2065 Main Street, Suite 108
Wailuku, HI 96793

Phone/Fax: (808)270-7179

E-Mail:

kim.nemoto@co.maui.hi.us