

*"If you don't like the way the world is, you change it...you just do it one step at a time."*

-Marion Wright Edelman



City of Kenosha Housing Authority

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## FAMILY SELF SUFFICIENCY PROGRAM



Want to be financially "rewarded" for working hard and increasing your income?

## WHO CAN BENEFIT FROM FSS? READ OUR GRADUATE STORIES!

Lettie 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. Lettie's FSS case manager 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. Lettie is proud of her accomplishments and loves caring for patients at work.

Crystal and Reggie liked their apartment, but had dreams about becoming homeowners. They both had jobs, but struggled to save money for a down payment. They joined the Family Self Sufficiency Program and developed a savings plan. Their FSS case manager provided them with counseling to improve their credit score, and directed them to the Housing Cost Reduction Initiative Grant, which provides down payment assistance for their new home.

Angelo was already attending classes at a local technical college when he heard about the FSS Program. With support from the program, he transferred to University of Wisconsin-Parkside 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.

What are YOUR steps to YOUR goals?



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

## WHAT IS THE FAMILY SELF SUFFICIENCY PROGRAM?

Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS), is a voluntary supplement program designed to assist families in becoming economically independent.

As a participant on the FSS Program, you will enter into a contract. This contract has an Action Plan where YOU create goals related to your education & employment. The Kenosha Housing Authority will then establish a savings account for when your household earned income increases.

With the support of local agencies, the FSS Program combines case management, education, job training referrals, and ongoing encouragement to aid your family in improving your life. The main requirements are a desire to become self-sufficient and willingness to take the steps necessary to make it happen.

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

**You can participate in the FSS program if you are:**

- Currently receiving Housing Choice Voucher Rental Assistance
- A Head-of-Household; 18 years of age or older
- Determined to make changes in your life circumstances
- Willing to accept challenges and take necessary steps in order to obtain better employment and/or education and job training
- Determined to free yourself from TANF/ W-2 cash assistance
- Willing to participate in status update meetings and communicate achievements with the FSS Coordinator throughout the year
- Willing to seek and obtain employment

## WHY "I" JOINED FSS

**There are many reasons for joining the FSS Program! Hear from some of the current FSS participants:**

*The savings account is a great incentive. Just knowing there is such a program is an encouragement in itself." -Alicia L.*

*"I want dignity for my daughter and myself. I want to someday own my own home." -Lisa B.*

*"I haven't worked in 5 years. I need time and support to get back to working again." -Linda C.*



## IIINTERESTED IN FSS?

*Please detach this portion of the brochure and return it to the Kenosha Housing Authority, 625 52nd Street, Room 98, Kenosha, WI 53140. The Program Coordinator will reach out to you to set up a meeting.*

Head of Household Name:

E-mail address (if you have one):

Phone Number:

Housing Specialist's Name:

YES, please contact me regarding the Family Self Sufficiency Program!

Signature:

x