

## If You're Still Not Sure, How About This?

Participants of the Manhattan Housing Authority's FSS program have earned their college degrees, become fully employed, and even moved from Section 8 HCV rental assistance to owning their own home! Graduates of the program have earned escrow accounts of thousands of dollars, but more importantly they have achieved their own goals through their own hard work.



## Pop Quiz Time!

Don't worry, there's only one question! The FSS program is:

- A) Only for Section 8 Participants
- B) Completely Voluntary
- C) A Great Way to Work Toward a Better Future
- D) An Opportunity That Shouldn't Be Missed
- E) All of the Above

If you answered "All of the Above", give yourself an A+, and give us a call!



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# Manhattan Housing Authority Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Family Self-Sufficiency Program



Start Your Climb to Success with FSS!



## Unlock Your Future!

The key to your future is in your hands. The Manhattan Housing Authority's Section 8 Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program can help you turn that key. FSS is a voluntary program available to all Section 8 participants. As part of the FSS program, you will set your own goals for your future self-sufficiency. The FSS program will provide referrals, guidance and other resources to help you achieve your goals.

FSS is not about you doing what someone else tells you to do; it is about you taking control of your path to things like employment advancement, higher education and increased independence from assistance.

## How Does It Work?

FSS is a simple program. Participants sign a Contract of Participation that includes goals set BY THE PARTICIPANT that will help them to achieve self-sufficiency. The contract is for five years; if the goals are met before the contract is up, the participant is an FSS graduate. If the goals are not met, the contract expires. Participants meet periodically with an FSS Coordinator to discuss their progress, to receive referrals and other resource information, and for revisions (if needed) to their contract goals.

## What's the Catch?

There is no catch for signing up for FSS, but there are a few things to remember. Participants must complete their contract goals before the contract ends. Participants must be free of cash assistance in order to graduate. If a participant leaves the Section 8 program before they have completed their FSS goals, they will no longer be a part of the FSS program. However, an FSS participant may voluntarily decide to leave the FSS program without leaving the Section 8 program.

## Need More Motivation?

If you need a little extra incentive, we've got it. FSS participants have an escrow (savings) account set up by the Housing Authority. Each month that the FSS participant's portion of rent increases due to an increase in earned income, the Housing Authority deposits funds into this escrow account. When the participant has graduated from FSS, they receive whatever funds are in the account.

On top of that, it is possible to use some of these funds before you graduate from FSS, as long as it will help you meet the contract goals. This can help with transportation, tuition, books and other services.

