

FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROGRAM

The City of Covington Section 8 program administers a Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program, which helps Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher participants achieve economic independence.

The primary objective of the FSS Program, administered under the supervision of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), is to provide opportunities to low-income Section 8 families for education, job training, counseling and other forms of social service assistance, so they may obtain the education, employment, business and social skills necessary to achieve self-sufficiency. Participation is voluntary and is available to families who are currently receiving assistance through the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program.

The FSS Program's objectives include:

- Providing FSS resources to all Section 8 families that desire to become economically independent.
- Establishing working partnerships with public and private agencies to gain access to the activities and supportive services needed by program participants in order to successfully complete their contracted goals.
- Addressing service issues that are identified as barriers to FSS families becoming economically self-sufficient.
- Assisting FSS families with creating an achievable service plan that is based on their strengths and needs.
- Implementing a case management system with the FSS Coordinator's support that will encourage and support FSS families to become self-sufficient.
- Providing ongoing evaluation to address program effectiveness.

Goal achievement and asset building are important elements of successful program completion. Once enrolled, FSS participant families are required to develop a five-year plan that charts the steps needed to achieve mutually identified goals. Goals can include obtaining a General Education Diploma (G.E.D.) or college degree, gaining employment or finding a new job with higher earnings, starting a business or buying a home via participation in the Section 8 Homeownership Program. The family successfully completes the FSS Program when the head of household has obtained full-time employment, achieved all goals on the individual training and service plan and all family members are free from receiving welfare assistance.

