

Success Story

Jacqueline, a single mother with three daughters, joined FSS to finish her education.

Jacqueline managed to complete all the necessary classes to obtain her Medical Assistant Certificate and started working full time in her field of study in March 2007. By January 2012,

Jacqueline obtained her GED Certificate and increased her earned income from \$0 to \$27,500.

As a result of her success she graduated from FSS and was disbursed escrow in excess of \$20,000.



Jacqueline & her daughters

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ORANGE COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

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**ORANGE COUNTY
HOUSING AUTHORITY**

Family Self- Sufficiency (FSS) Program

FSS is a HUD program to help Housing Choice Voucher Program families obtain education and employment that will lead to economic independence and self-sufficiency.



**Positively Transforming
Lives in Orange County**

What are your plans for the future?

- ◆ Return to School?
- ◆ Get job training?
- ◆ Increase Earnings?
- ◆ Save some money?



If you answered Yes to any of these questions, you should attend an FSS informational briefing to learn how to make your plans a reality.

What is the FSS Program?

A five-year voluntary program designed to assist Housing Choice Voucher participants achieve economic independence.

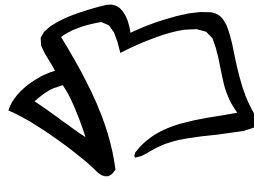
The FSS Program is a self-paced program. You determine your goals, and we help you find the resources needed to become self-sufficient.

Who is eligible?

To participate, a family must be a Housing Choice Voucher participant in the County of Orange.

How does the program work?

- ◆ The first step is to attend an FSS information briefing.
 - ◆ Meet with a Housing Program Specialist to develop your short and long term goals.
 - ◆ Sign an FSS Contract of Participation.
 - ◆ Attend workshops and receive referrals to services needed.
- ◆ Periodically meet with your Housing Programs Specialist to discuss and evaluate progress,
- ◆ Apply for graduation after goals are reached and fulfilling your COP.



What services are offered to families in the FSS program?

- ◆ Case management.
- ◆ Supportive services.
- ◆ Skills training.
- ◆ Education planning.
- ◆ Employment assistance.

Incentives for participating in the FSS program?

- ◆ Education.
- ◆ Empowerment & Support.
- ◆ Establish an escrow account, which is a savings account created when your rent increase due to an increase in earned income (wages).
- ◆ Reimbursement.
- ◆ Resources.

How do you graduate from FSS?

You must fulfill the following criteria:

1. Complete all goals within five-years.
2. Be suitably employed.
3. All family members must be free from Cal Works at the time of graduation
4. Household must be in good standing with OCHA.

Can the FSS program help families purchase a home?

- ◆ The FSS program can refer families to first-time homeownership programs to increase homeownership options.
- ◆ We encourage families to use the escrow account savings for the down payment on their first home!