

## FSS Information Sheet

New Hampshire Housing's Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program combines Housing Choice Voucher assistance with education, support and service coordination for families who want to increase their earned income.

### Financial Resources for Participants



#### Escrow Savings Account

- While working, if your portion of the rent increases because your household earned income increases, money will be added every month to an FSS Escrow Savings Account for you. This money can be used to help reach your goals or saved until you complete the program. Average savings is around \$4,500.

#### Loan and Grant Program

- New Hampshire Housing offers a small loan and grant program to help FSS participants overcome barriers to employment. You may receive up to \$1,500 in grant funds and \$4,000 as a low-interest loan while in the program.

### Program Highlights

**COACHING** - We will help you strategize to get where you want to go and provide you with:

- Self-assessments to identify your strengths and areas to work on
- Tools to strengthen core skills that have proven helpful to people in reaching their goals
- Other resources that may be helpful to you

**EMPLOYMENT** - We will connect you with resources and tools to help you:

- Search for work that is a good fit for you
- Maintain employment / Advance in your career
- Find training and educational programs



**FINANCIAL** - We will provide you with financial capability training and assistance to:

- Develop a savings and spending plan to put you in control of your money
- Build assets – the only sure way out of poverty
- Use your voucher toward homeownership (optional)

## New Hampshire Housing's Responsibilities

- Provide employment and financial capability coaching to help you strategize ways to increase your earned income and savings
- Work with state and local agencies to connect you to job search assistance, employment counseling, training, and other resources you need to succeed
- Establish and maintain an FSS Escrow Savings Account for you based on HUD's formula

## What Will You Need to Do?

### To participate in the FSS Program you need to:

- Be the head of household and able and willing to work
- Sign the FSS contract of participation agreeing to:
  - Take steps to obtain and maintain suitable employment and move toward self-sufficiency
  - Complete financial capability training and maintain a savings & spending plan
- Stay in touch with your FSS Coach for help strategizing, on-going support, and resources



### To successfully complete the FSS Program:

- You need to be working in suitable employment; AND
- No one in your household may have received Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) cash assistance during the prior 12 months (short-term assistance lasting no more than four months is allowed)

**Note:** Since participating in FSS is voluntarily, you may leave at any time, and you may complete early. You will not lose your housing assistance if you stop participating in the FSS Program.

## Interested in Joining the FSS Program?

If you would like an Application, you can get a copy at [www.nhhfa.org](http://www.nhhfa.org) or call 800-739-7247 ext. 9297 or e-mail [housingservices@nhhfa.org](mailto:housingservices@nhhfa.org).