

What are the requirements to participate in FSS?

- FSS family must apply for employment, attend job interviews, and comply with PHA's definition of seeking and maintaining employment. FSS Head of Household is required to obtain employment as condition of completing the contract goals.
- All family members must be free of welfare assistance for at least 12 consecutive months prior to the expiration of contract.
- FSS Family members must comply with the terms of the lease and the Section 8 family obligations as prescribed by the Housing Authority.

Can WBPHA require families to participate in FSS?

Participation of families in the FSS program is voluntary and cannot be a condition of receiving HUD-assisted housing.

- *Must complete the individual Training Service Program*
- *Must provide Housing Authority information regarding achievement of goals*



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Cristina Regino

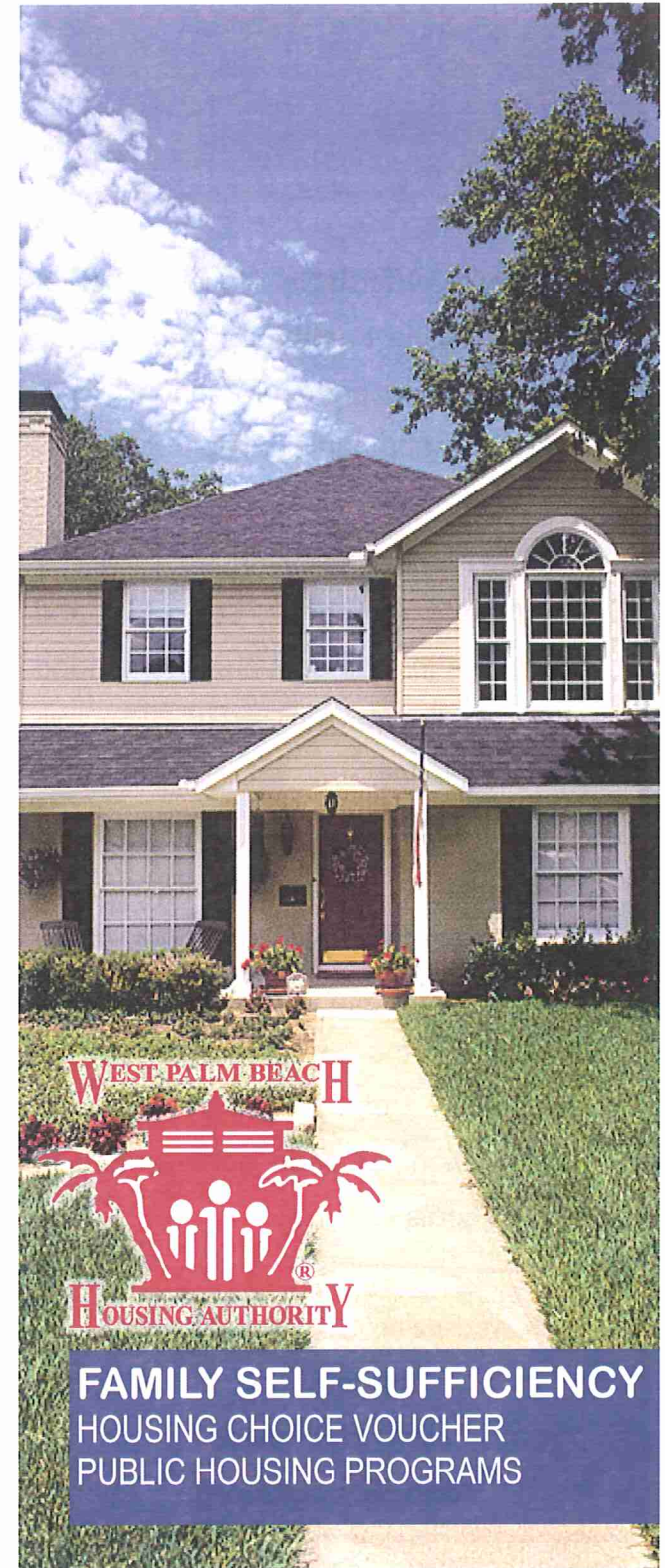
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WEST PALM BEACH



HOUSING AUTHORITY

FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY

HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER

PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMS

Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program

The National Affordable Housing Act of 1990 created the **Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS)** program to promote economic self-sufficiency among participating families.

- Eligible families are connected with the appropriate support services and resources in their communities needed to move the family toward economic self-sufficiency.
- **FSS** offers a financial incentive to families through establishment of an escrow account which becomes available to the family upon successful completion of their Contract of Participation, or upon achievement of certain goals.

Schedule Appointments with

Leiann Dodd

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What services are provided through the FSS Program?

- Credit Counseling
- Job Training & Employment Counseling
- Household Skill Training
- Entrepreneurial Training
- Budget Counseling
- Homeownership Counseling

What families are eligible to participate in the FSS program?

- Current residents of **Public Housing**
- Current **Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher** participants

Who administers the FSS program?

FSS Certified Housing Counselor & FSS Coordinator

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Education =
Economic
Independence

What is the FSS Contract of Participation?

- The Head of Household of each family participating in FSS must sign the contract of eligibility. The effective date is the first day of the month following the contract date.
- The initial Contract term is five years, with one allowable extension for up to two years.

How does the FSS Escrow Account work?

An FSS Escrow Account is established by the Housing Authority for each participating family. An escrow credit which is based on the increase in wages/rent is credited to the account during the term of the FSS Contract.

- At the discretion of the Housing Authority, a portion of the Escrow Account may be made available to complete an interim goal such as education.
- When the contract is completed, and the family has met their objectives, and no member of the family is receiving welfare, the balance in the Escrow Account is provided to the Head of Household towards the purchase of a home.
- If the Housing Authority terminates the FSS Contract, or if the FSS participant fails to complete the contract, the escrow funds are no longer available.