

Family Self-Sufficiency

2011 Participant Statistics:

47% of our current participants
increased their income in 2011

39% of our current participants
are enrolled in an education
program

2011 FSS Graduation Data:
100% fulfilled educational goals
95% fulfilled employment goals
44% **PURCHASED HOMES!**

On average, participants complete
their goals successfully
within 36 months.

2011 Escrow Data:
Average monthly escrow credit:
\$200
Average escrow account balance:
\$2,085
Average final escrow check:
\$3,288
Total escrow payouts for families:
\$29,596

**LARGEST ESCROW CHECK
TO DATE:**
\$15,186

FSS Contact Information

For appointments call:
(701) 746-2545

*For more information on FSS or
our home ownership programs,
call or e-mail:*

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Grand Forks Housing Authority
1405 1st Ave. N.
Grand Forks, ND 58203

www.grandforkshousingauthority.org

The Family Self-Sufficiency Program

*Jump start your road to
financial independence!*



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What is the Family Self-Sufficiency Program?

Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) is a savings-incentive employment program for families or individuals who would like to become financially independent within the next five years.

With your help, the FSS Coordinator will look at where you stand now, where you want to be, and how to get there. We'll work with you to develop a personalized goal plan, find opportunities to achieve your goals, and give you the encouragement and tools you need to succeed! On top of that, we'll connect you with resources throughout the community to help complete all of your steps toward financial independence!

Who is eligible for FSS?

The key to eligibility for FSS is simply having a desire to seek financial independence through employment.

You are eligible for the program if you are:

- Currently receiving housing assistance, through a Housing Choice Voucher,
- In good standing with your lease,
- Motivated to become self-sufficient, and
- Able to seek employment.

Students, part-time workers, full-time workers looking for a raise, and those with disabilities: as long as you intend to become employed or earn more while using your voucher you are eligible!



How does the Escrow Account work?

While utilizing a voucher, the portion of rental assistance you pay is called the total tenant payment (TTP). Your TTP is recorded on your FSS contract when you sign up for the program. As your income increases, so does your TTP. If you're enrolled in FSS that increase will go into your savings account specifically for you!



Example:

The rent for your apartment is \$600/month. You currently have no income so housing assistance is paying \$600. You get a job

and your TTP becomes \$200/month and housing assistance decreases to \$400/month. Because you are in FSS, that \$200 is credited to your escrow savings account rather than just leaving your pocket!

What can I use my escrow for?

After graduation you can use your funds for home-ownership, paying off debt, buying a car, or anything else you'd like!

Prior to completing the program you may access your funds for employment related expenses, like transportation, education, or expenses determined eligible by your FSS Coordinator.

I'm ready! How do I get started?

The longer you are enrolled in FSS, the more you have the potential to earn. The following steps will get you on your way!

1. Schedule an orientation by calling: (701) 746-2545
2. Meet with your FSS Coordinator to set individual goals and sign your contract.
3. Work on accomplishing your goals by:
 - *Receiving career counseling
 - *Attending budget counseling
 - *Improving your education
 - *Training for a job
 - *Learning about home ownership
 - *Staying motivated and working hard!
4. Increase income through employment
5. Accomplish your goals within five years
6. Graduate and receive your FSS escrow funds!!!

Start saving today, and you'll be on the road to financial independence!

