

HOW TO APPLY

The Family Self-Sufficiency Program is a voluntary program administered by the Brainerd HRA, which helps and rewards families for moving off public assistance. For an application to get started on the program, please contact:

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BRAINERD HOUSING AND
REDEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY

HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER



**FAMILY SELF-
SUFFICIENCY
PROGRAM**

WHAT IS FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY?

Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) is a program from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) connecting housing assistance and supportive services to eligible families. The GOAL of the Family Self-Sufficiency Program is to enable current families and individuals participating in HUD rental assistance to take control of their lives, becoming economically and socially independent through the coordination and delivery of existing community services. FSS assists families and individuals with acquiring the skills needed to achieve financial independence and the pride that goes with it.



WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Eligibility for the Family Self-Sufficiency Program is identical to the current federal housing assistance programs. To qualify for rental assistance, a family must have an annual income within the federal guidelines. If you are already residing on the Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8), you are eligible for the FSS Program.

FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY: THE REWARDS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Family Self-Sufficiency Program requires motivation and active participation by the applicant family. It carries with it many rewards and responsibilities that the family must uphold to remain in the program.

REWARDS

Family Self-Sufficiency offers several benefits to the participant families. Families who participate identify a family “head” (not necessarily the leaseholder) and enter into a contract with the FSS program. Goals and obstacles are identified and linked to supportive services and resources in the community to enable the participant to reach their desired goals. The contract clearly defines the steps necessary for the family to reach self-sufficiency. Each family is unique, therefore, the contract is designed to fit their specific needs and can be renegotiated during the course of the program. The main goal of the contract allows the family to achieve independence with the program’s five-year initiation. **Families who successfully complete the FSS Program can escrow money based on their earned income.**



RESPONSIBILITIES

Each participating family must complete and sign a Contract of Participation outlining the desired goals and describing the supportive services used to reach their goals. Services may include school, employment, childcare and other issues. Participating families are required to maintain the contracts for the term of the FSS program. Any violations of the contract by the family leads to the loss of the escrow funds accrued for them as part of the benefits of the program. The family is responsible for maintaining the contract with the agency or agencies assisting the family to meet their goals. The family is responsible for any desired change with their contract with the various agencies. Flexibility in the program allows adjustment for an emergency or unusual situation.