

Family Self-Sufficiency—Newsletter

What is the Family Self-Sufficiency Program

1. The FSS Program is a voluntary five year program offered to Housing Choice Voucher and Asset Management families to help them in becoming more self-sufficient.
2. When a family enters the program, they meet with a FSS Program Coordinator to discuss their needs and to set goals.
3. Together, the FSS Coordinator and family set goals that can be achieved over a 5 year period. The family can set any goal they wish but the main goal for every family must be to obtain and maintain full-time employment and to be free of welfare assistance.
4. Once goals are finalized, the family signs an FSS Contract and completes and Individual Training and Services Plan.

Smart Money Moves for Your Tax Refund

As the end of the year approaches, January marks a fresh start in a new year, which also means a new tax refund will be coming soon. A tax refund is a great chance to set yourself up for a better future. Here are some smart money moves you can do with your return:

1. Paying off high-interest debt, like a credit card balance, is always a smart money move. It doesn't make financial sense to put money in a savings when you have interest accruing on your debts.
2. Create an emergency fund for a sudden financial need. Lack of savings leaves you vulnerable to a job loss, medical emergency, or major repair. Keep savings in a high-yield account to help build your savings faster.
3. Setting up your retirement fund, such as an IRA or Roth, will give you a chance to start preparing for when you no longer are able to work.
4. Looking to the future for your children's financial wellbeing is a great way to set them up for success. It's never too early to start thinking of a college fund or retirement account for your little ones.
5. Tackle maintenance costs you've been postponing, such as car issues or home appliances. Think of big expenses that are likely to come up in the next 12 months and get in front of them.



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FSS—Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Do I have to be employed to enroll in FSS program?

A: No! Participants are expected to be employed by the end of their contract, but you do not have to be employed before you enroll. The FSS Coordinator will be happy to work with you to explore different career options to gain employment.

Q: What are the graduation requirements for FSS?

A: In order to graduate from the program, FSS participants must complete the following:

- Be free of welfare (i.e. state cash assistance) by the time of graduation.
- Be employed full time (32 hours per week) by the time of graduation
- Meet goals on Individual Training and Service Plan

Q: Do I have to complete all of the goals we create together on the ITSP?

A: Yes, all of your goals must be completed by the time of graduation. However, we know that a lot can change during the 5-year contract. The FSS Coordinator will work with you to change or add goals needed.

Q: Are there any accommodations for people with disabilities?

A: Yes. We will work with you as long as you are willing and able to gain employment.

Q: How often do I need to stay in contact with the FSS Coordinator?

A: After you enroll in the program, you and the FSS Coordinator will check in quarterly. These check-ins can take place over the phone, in-person, or over zoom call. You are required to meet with the FSS Coordinator quarterly, but you may meet more based on your case management needs.

Q: What if I want to leave the FSS program?

A: The FSS program is completely voluntary, so you are able to exit the program at any time. However, you will not receive your escrow balance if you leave the program before graduation.

Leaving the FSS program will not impact your status as an CMHA resident or participant of housing programs.

Upcoming Events

FSS Monthly Informational Session to be held on Thursday November 21, 2024

Are you interested in learning more about the FSS program? Do you have questions? If so, join us in-person on Thursday November , 2024 Learn more about the benefits of the program and what steps you need to take to join. Also, meet the FSS team and get answers to your questions!

When: November 21, 2024 11am-12:00 pm

Where: 1635 Western Avenue

Who: Housing Choice Voucher holders and Asset Management Residents are eligible to attend.

To register for either session, please send an email to stephanie.cooke@cintimha.com

Financial Literacy Series

CMHA in Partnership with Tru-Partners, a three-part series is being presented to HCV FFS Participants and Asset Management Residents. Learn more about these great topics.

November 21, 2024—Debt

1635 Western Avenue—Auditorium

11:00 am—12:00 pm

December 19, 2024—Credit

1635 Western Avenue—Auditorium

NOVEMBER FUN FACTS

**November 1, : National Cook for your
Pets Day**

November 6: Zero-Taking Day

November 9: National Scrapple Day

November 12, : World Kindness Day

November 16: National Button Day

November 21: World Hello Day

November 23: Fibonacci Day



CMHA’s Employees “Adopting CMHA Families for Holidays”

CMHA’s employees are “Adopting 10 CMHA Families for the Holidays” . If you need assistance for the your upcoming Holiday Dinner, please send an email and let us know. A random selection for the 10 CMHA families will be chosen on Monday, November 25, 2024, letting them know when to pick up their non-perishable food items, and the turkey can be picked up at the FreeStore FoodBank.

Please register at hcvfss@cintimha.com.

CMHA MOVING ONLINE

Effective August 1, 2024, CMHA is improving our Customer Service, we moved— Online. You are able to complete recertifications, change of household/income, submit TNT etc.

1st Step—You must Register for Portal

- Go to <https://myinfo.cintimha.com/> and select Resident Login
- The login screen will appear. Scroll down to register here and click the red link
- You will be prompted to enter your registration code here. Enter the code.
- Now complete the registration process by creating a user name (email address) and enter password
 - Save the information in your records
- Once registered, you can start using the Portal
- Go to <http://myinfo.cintimha.com/> and select Resident Login
- The Login screen will appear. Login with the information you just entered.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please call CMHA Customer Services at 513.977.5800.

Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority

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Cincinnati, Ohio 45214

Email: hcvfss@cintimha.com

Office Closed

November 11, 2024—Veterans Day

November 28-29, 2024—Thanksgiving

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE



To join Family Self-Sufficiency or, to get additional information; please contact hcvfss@cintimha.com.