

## FREE Classes & Programs

- **Financial Fitness**

Learn how to manage your finances and budget and how to repair your credit and get on track for home ownership.

- **IDA Accounts**

A matched savings that allows you to save for education, home ownership, starting a small business, and home repairs.

- **Lifeskills**

Learn how to maintain a positive attitude when faced with conflict. Be aware of your self confidence and learn how to effectively communicate while problem solving.

- **Employment 101**

Help with writing an effective resume, dressing for success, and mock interviews. Transportation for an interview can also be provided.

- **Referrals**

Contacts to outside agencies who have programs on parenting, abusive relationships, mentoring, money tips, opening a small business and medical and dental needs.

- **FSHA Affordable Housing Program**

Program designed to help families achieve the dream of home ownership by walking them thru the steps from repairing credit to moving in

## Listen To What Our Participants Say

The Family Self-Sufficiency Program has been a crucial stepping stone to my success. It has, at times, been my only hope in the midst of my struggles. Words cannot express my appreciation for the structure and support provided by the program as well as the sincerity of the staff in assisting me in achieving my ambitions. MC

FSS has helped me to prioritize and make my monthly cash flow sufficient to pay my bills. I'm paying on time, with less stress, and not dreading the phone calls from bill collectors anymore. JF

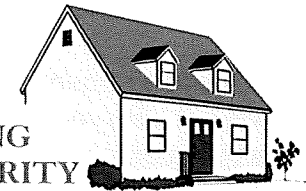
How does one rise from homeless to stable? You fight for it! First you have to be willing to ask for help and trust those that offer it. That is actually the hardest step because so many of us have landed in a homeless position due to something that destroyed our sense of trust in people, the system and yes even God. The Fort Smith Self Sufficiency Program was only one of the many tools that was placed in my path. As with anything you must be the one to grab the reigns and be prepared to ride it for the long haul. You must change the way you look at everything especially money and budgeting. Yes, I feel stable now, thanks to the time and the tools that program provided me. Can I say I will never be homeless again? Can you? Because if you answered yes than you are deluded like many of us are before it happens to us. What I can say instead is..... The tools that I have gained and use daily to make decisions will keep me out of ANY situation where I can not rise. Thank You Fort Smith Self Sufficiency! TL

**FSS Mission Statement**  
Our goal is help develop  
housing-assisted families to achieve economic  
independence and  
greater empowerment

# What is FSS?

*FSS Means Family Self-Sufficiency.  
It is a voluntary program offered to  
Section 8 program participants.*

FORT  
SMITH  
HOUSING  
AUTHORITY



The Housing Authority of the City of Fort Smith

## Why should you join?

- Supportive services to help you achieve goals
- Ability to grow escrow funds as your earned income grows
- FREE workshops and classes available to help you and your family
- An advocate who wants to help you grow



The FSS Program was introduced to the Fort Smith Housing Authority in May, 1992. And, since 2005, over \$101,395 in escrow has been released to our graduates!

## How does this work?

FSS is a five year program, but you will find that the five years fly by!

At your first appointment, your FSS Coordinator will set help you set goals and plan how to accomplish them. If you have barriers preventing you from achieving your goals, the coordinator will help you to overcome them with referrals to outside agencies. You will sign a contract to begin pursuing your goals, with assistance at every step.

As your earned income increases and your rent goes up, FSHA will place a portion of the rent difference into an escrow savings account. Once you are successful in meeting your goals, you will receive a check for the balance of your escrow account.

Want more information? Call Teresa Tilley at 479-668-4764, ext 20 or email [ttilley@fortsmithhousing.org](mailto:ttilley@fortsmithhousing.org)

## YES! I am interested in becoming a participant in the FSS

Family Self Sufficiency Statement of Interest

PLEASE PRINT

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CELL PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE NUMBER, IF DIFFERENT: \_\_\_\_\_

Complete this and return and you will be called for an interview to determine if the FSS Program is right for you!

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Return to :

Fort Smith Housing Authority

ATTN: FSS Coordinator

2101 N. 31st Street

Fort Smith, AR 72904

Or call 479-668-4764, ext 20