

GMHA Mission Statement

By taking advantage of available community and government resources, we intend to provide our residents with as many opportunities for economic self-sufficiency as we can identify. We endeavor to instill pride and a desire for an enhanced quality of life for our residents and their families.

We are committed to serving our residents and this entire community in a manner that demonstrates professional courtesy, respect and caring.



GMHA promotes equal employment and housing opportunities without regard to race, creed, color, national origin, disability, gender or familial status.

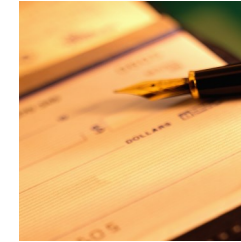
To learn more about services GMHA offers visit our website at: www.geaugamha.org



Geauga
Metropolitan Housing Authority
Your key to affordable housing in Geauga County.
Dawn Farrell
Executive Director



Public Housing & Section 8 HCV Family Self-Sufficiency Program



Financial Growth



Savings



FSS, your key to economic independence!

What is FSS?



FSS is a voluntary program designed to promote savings & employment among Public Housing and Section 8 HCV participants.



Who Can Apply?

All Public Housing and Section 8 HCV participants are encouraged to enroll in FSS.

Participants must be in compliance with Public Housing or Section 8 HCV program requirements at the time of enrollment and must maintain compliance.

Obligations of the Participating Family

Head of Household **MUST**

- Seek and maintain suitable employment throughout duration of contract
- Establish and complete activities listed on the Individual Training Service Plan (ITSP)
- Keep Coordinator informed of the family's needs
- Submit documentation verifying progress & completion of goals as outlined in ITSP by Coordinator
- Verify entire family has become independent of welfare (cash) assistance for at least 12 consecutive months prior to end of participation
- Comply with all appointments and requests of the Coordinator



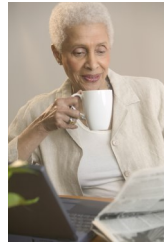
Primary Goals of Program

- Assist Public Housing and Section 8 HCV families in becoming independent of public (Welfare) and/or housing assistance
- Promote the completion of family goals through resources & supportive services
- Eliminate barriers and overcome obstacles that hinder future family stability



Contract of Participation

An agreement between GMHA, FSS Coordinator & Participant that outlines the requirements of all parties. Contract term is 5 years (an extension up to 2 years given 'good cause').



Maximum time on the program is 7 years.

Coordinator Responsibilities

- Provide supportive services
- Review goals and ITSP
- Provide resources
- Prepare escrow payouts
- Determine program completion



How the FSS Escrow Account Works

- GMHA obtains resources for its FSS Escrow deposits from funds requisitioned from HUD
- The amount of the escrow credit is based on increases in the family's total tenant payment (TTP) resulting from increases in the family's *earned income* during the term of the FSS contract
- As a family's income increases, GMHA calculates rent & the family pays increased rent. GMHA then makes deposits to an escrow account in the appropriate amount
- Because the escrow is based on the TTP resulting from increases in earned income, there is no escrow credit if current TTP is less than the TTP at the execution of 'COP' - meaning that the new amount of rent must be higher than what the family was paying when they signed the Contract of Participation



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