

**WHAT'S HOLDING YOU BACK?
WANT TO LEARN MORE?**

Complete this form, clip it out on the dotted line,
and mail or return it to:

ATCOG Family Self-Sufficiency Program
ATTN: Daneshia Walton, FSS Coordinator
4808 Elizabeth St.
Texarkana, TX 75503

This does not enroll you in the FSS program, but you
will receive additional information where you can
decide if your family will benefit from this program.

(PLEASE PRINT)

Date: _____

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Language spoken at home: _____

☐ I am a HCV Program participant



**NEED ENCOURAGEMENT?
NEED SUPPORT?
NEED GUIDANCE?
WE'RE HERE TO HELP
YOU INVEST IN YOURSELF!**

Daneshia Walton,
Family Self-Sufficiency Coordinator
903.255.3559 dwalton@atcog.org



**Family
Self-Sufficiency
Program**



The primary goal of ATCOG is to improve the quality of
life for all citizens of the region on behalf of regional gov-
ernmental organizations by providing a perspective on
information and problem solving and by coordinating
funding, resources, programs and services.



What is the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program?



The Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS)

Program helps individuals and families currently receiving subsidy under the Ark-Tex Council of Government (ATCOG)'s housing programs to support themselves so they no longer need public assistance. The objective is to reduce the dependency of low-income families on welfare assistance, voucher program assistance, public assistance, or any federal, state, or local rent or homeownership program. The FSS program helps individuals take the steps to find and maintain stable employment and establish a savings account that will lead to self-sufficiency. This is an opportunity to **INVEST IN YOURSELF** and your future — whether you want to finish school, find a better job, secure the childcare and transportation you need to stay employed, or own a home.

Participation in the FSS Program is **voluntary**. The program is a five (5) year program that is open to eligible adults currently in the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program. If you currently have a Housing Choice Voucher, able to work, and want to become self-sufficient, you may be eligible to participate. Participants should have a desire to become self-sufficient and a willingness to take the necessary steps to make it happen.

How does FSS work?

The designated Head of Household for an eligible family who is in the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program will enter into an agreement with ATCOG by signing a Contract of Participation. The resident will meet with the FSS Coordinator to form a detailed plan to determine the resident's needs in regards to education and employment goals. The FSS Coordinator will also provide assistance in obtaining services to help participants overcome barriers that may be keeping them from achieving their dreams such as: gaining job skills, increasing income from employment, building savings and managing money, establishing or repairing credit, achieving educational goals, and addressing family issues (childcare, health, disability, transportation). You do not have to give up housing assistance as long as you are eligible. The FSS program is intended to help participants move towards self-sufficiency. Many have achieved high school or college degrees, obtained good jobs and careers, and no longer have a need for the assistance upon graduation of the program.



What are the benefits of the FSS Program?

Services available through local services providers to assist residents with meeting FSS goals include:

- ⇒ GED preparation and other education programs
- ⇒ Job search and career counseling
- ⇒ Technical and vocational training
- ⇒ Childcare and transportation
- ⇒ Financial planning
- ⇒ Financial literacy workshops
- ⇒ Escrow savings account
- ⇒ Become self-sufficiency

How does the FSS savings account work?

ATCOG establishes an interest-bearing escrow (savings) account for each FSS participating family. Any increases in the family's rent as a result of increased earned income during the family's participation in the program results in a credit to the family's escrow account. The money in the account, plus interest, is received by participants at the completion and successful graduation of the program. The family can decide how the money can best serve the future of their family. Some families choose to use the money to reach goals for education, debt reduction, reliable transportation, and even towards home ownership.

