



The Grand Rapids Housing Commission (GRHC) Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program helps households that participate in a GRHC affordable housing program set goals and build savings to achieve economic self-sufficiency and a stronger financial future.

Funded by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, the FSS Program offers participants an opportunity to accrue funds in an escrow account when an increase in earned income increases the portion of monthly rent a household pays. The household can use some of the escrowed savings for activities that further the family's progress toward meeting self-sufficiency goals and receives the account balance upon successful completion of the program.

GRHC staff provide one-on-one support to help program participants set short- and long-term goals and also identify community resources that will help them on their journey to self-sufficiency. Available services and resources include:

- Credit repair education and counseling
- Financial management education
- Preparation for home ownership
- Transportation services
- Child care services
- Job training
- Job placement assistance

FSS PROGRAM MISSION

The Grand Rapids Housing Commission Family Self-Sufficiency Program is a holistic approach that empowers families to create, build and sustain self-reliance through a broad range of programs and opportunities.



GRCC Workforce Training and M-TEC are among the many partner programs available to assist families working toward self-sufficiency

Helping Families Achieve Financial Stability

Families that participate in the GRHC's affordable housing programs generally pay 30 percent of household income toward rent; so an increase in earned income results in an increase in the monthly rent the household pays.

When the head of household or other adult family member enrolls in the FSS Program, the GRHC opens an interest-bearing escrow account for the family in which we deposit roughly the amount of the rent increase each month. Funds can accrue for up to five years, but earlier graduation is possible.

For example...

- An FSS Program participant pays rent of \$100 per month at the time of enrollment in the program.
- Participant gets a job or a pay raise and monthly rent increases to \$150.
- The \$50 monthly increase is matched and deposited into an escrow savings account.
- Participant completes the FSS Program contract and receives the escrowed funds!

200 program participants during 2023
38 program graduates during 2023
Average 2023 escrow award: \$8,450

How the FSS Program Works

- An eligible resident attends an orientation meeting and signs an FSS Program contract that outlines the responsibilities of both the family and the GRHC.
- The resident meets with an FSS Coordinator to set goals and get information about available community resources.
- As the resident's earned income increases, monthly interest-bearing deposits are made in an escrow account to benefit the household.
- Once the resident completes the FSS Program, the household receives the escrowed funds.
- To successfully complete the FSS program and receive all escrowed funds...
 - The head of household must be employed and the family must fulfill all of its program obligations.
 - All household members must be independent from welfare assistance.
 - The household must be in good standing with the GRHC and the landlord.

Let us know you are interested in the Family Self-Sufficiency Program:
www.grhousing.org/fssSelfReferral.html