

## Chapter 2

### PURPOSE, SCOPE, AND APPLICABILITY OF THE FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROGRAM

#### INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains information about the FSS program's purpose, size, and measurable objectives as well as information on program operation. This includes potential participant demographics, the program timetable, the number of families to be served, and the size of the PHA's voluntary FSS program. This chapter also contains definitions of the key terms in this FSS action plan.

Part I: The Purpose and Basic Requirements of the FSS program: This part includes a description of the purpose of the FSS program on a national level—its intent, goal, and major strategies.

Part II: The Scope of the FSS program: This part contains information about housing assistance programs eligible to participate in FSS, the size of the PHA's FSS program, an estimate of participating families, eligible families from other self-sufficiency programs, and eligibility for combined FSS programs.

Part III: Program Operation: This part specifies the requirements for FSS program operation, including voluntary FSS program implementation.

Part IV: The Definitions of Terms Used in the PHA's FSS program: This section contains both HUD and PHA definitions for terms used in this policy document.

## **PART I: PURPOSE AND BASIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE FSS PROGRAM**

### **2-I.A. PURPOSE**

The purpose of the family self-sufficiency (FSS) program is to promote the development of local strategies to coordinate the use of Section 8 and public housing assistance programs with public and private resources enabling families eligible to receive assistance under these programs to achieve economic independence and self-sufficiency [984.101(a)(1)].

In addition to this broader national goal of the FSS program, the PHA also establishes a local goal consistent with the PHA's mission statement to serve as a guide for establishing policy and implementing the FSS program.

#### EIC Policy

The PHA's local goal in operating this FSS program is to match housing-assisted families with a broad range of existing community services to assist FSS families in achieving economic self-sufficiency. *Economic self-sufficiency* is defined as having the sustainable skills necessary to maintain employment paying a "living wage." This wage would pay for the family's basic needs without the use of government subsidies.

### **2-I.B. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES [24 CFR 984.102]**

In order to reach the FSS national program goal, HUD has defined its FSS program objective as to reduce the dependency of low-income families on welfare assistance and on housing subsidies. Under the FSS program, low-income families are provided opportunities for education, job training, counseling, and other forms of social service assistance while living in assisted housing so that they may obtain the education, employment, business and social skills necessary to achieve self-sufficiency. As with the goals of the program, FSS program objectives are defined on the national level through FSS regulation, and on the local level by PHA policy.

#### EIC Policy

On the local level, the PHA will achieve national program objectives by offering low-income families a broad range of services through partnering with the program coordinating committee (PCC). These services will provide long-term educational, job training, counseling, and other forms of social service assistance so that families may achieve economic self-sufficiency, as defined in Section 2-I.A. of this document.

### **2-I.C. BASIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE FSS PROGRAM [24 CFR 984.104]**

An FSS program established under 24 CFR Part 984 must operate in conformity with the regulations and this FSS action plan (as required in 24 CFR 984.201, provide comprehensive supportive services as defined in 24 CFR 984.103, and operate in compliance with nondiscrimination and equal opportunity requirements.

## **2-I.D. BASIC REQUIREMENTS OF FAIR HOUSING**

Federal laws require PHAs to treat all applicants and participants equally, providing the same opportunity to access services, regardless of family characteristics and background. Federal law prohibits discrimination in housing on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, familial status, and disability. In addition, HUD regulations provide for additional protections regarding sexual orientation, gender identity, and marital status. The PHA will comply fully with all federal, state, and local nondiscrimination laws, and with rules and regulations governing fair housing and equal opportunity in housing and employment, including:

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
- Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (as amended by the Community Development Act of 1974 and the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988)
- Executive Orders 11063 and 13988
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- The Age Discrimination Act of 1975
- Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (to the extent that it applies, otherwise Section 504 and the Fair Housing Amendments govern)
- The Equal Access to Housing in HUD Programs Regardless of Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity Final Rule, published in the *Federal Register* February 3, 2012, and further clarified in Notice PIH 2014-20
- Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)

When more than one civil rights law applies to a situation, the laws will be read and applied together.

## EIC Policy

The PHA will not:

Deny to any family the opportunity to apply for housing, nor deny to any qualified applicant the opportunity to participate in the housing choice voucher program

Provide housing that is different from that provided to others

Subject anyone to segregation or disparate treatment

Subject anyone to sexual harassment

Restrict anyone's access to any benefit enjoyed by others in connection with the housing program

Treat a person differently in determining eligibility or other requirements for admission

Steer an applicant or participant toward or away from a particular area on based any of these factors

Deny anyone access to the level of services equal to others

Deny anyone the opportunity to participate in a planning or advisory group that is an integral part of the housing program

Discriminate in the provision of residential real estate transactions

Discriminate against someone because they are related to or associated with a member of a protected class

Publish or cause to be published an advertisement or notice indicating the availability of housing that prefers or excludes persons who are members of a protected class.

The PHAs FSS program will follow the procedures in the HCV administrative plan, the Public Housing admissions and continued occupancy policy, and the PHA's fair housing plan in meeting its nondiscrimination obligations.

The PHA will consider, on a case-by-case basis, requests for reasonable accommodation from persons with disabilities to facilitate participation in the FSS program. Requests will be made initially to the FSS coordinator and forwarded to the appropriate person and program within the PHA as outlined in the administrative plan, the ACOP, and the fair housing plan. If a family is not satisfied with the response, the family may submit a request in writing in accordance with the agency's reasonable accommodations policy. The policy is available in person at 712 Virginia Road Hertford NC 27944 or online at [eicca.org](http://eicca.org)

The PHA will honor requests from a person with disabilities for the use of effective communication strategies in order to facilitate participation in the FSS program as outlined in the administrative plan, the ACOP, and the fair housing plan. Requests will be made initially to the FSS coordinator and forwarded to the appropriate person and program within the PHA as outlined in the administrative plan, the ACOP, and the fair housing plan. If a family is not satisfied with the response, the family may submit a request in writing in accordance with the agency's effective communications plan. The policy is available in person at 712 Virginia Road Hertford NC 27944 or online at [eicca.org](http://eicca.org). Examples of effective communications include, but are not limited to, appropriate auxiliary aids and services, such as interpreters, computer-assisted real time transcription (CART), captioned videos with audible video description, visual alarm devices, a talking thermostat, accessible electronic communications and websites, documents in alternative formats (e.g., Braille, large print), or assistance in reading or completing a form, etc.

The PHA will comply with HUD requirements to conduct oral and written communication related to the FSS program in languages that are understandable to people with limited English proficiency as outlined in the administrative plan, the ACOP, and the fair housing plan. Requests will be made initially to the FSS coordinator and forwarded to the appropriate person and program within the PHA as outlined in the administrative plan, the ACOP, and the fair housing plan. If a family is not satisfied with the response, the family may submit a request in writing in accordance with the agency's limited English proficiency policy. The policy is available in person at 712 Virginia Road Hertford NC 27944 or online at [eicca.org](http://eicca.org).

## **PART II: SCOPE OF THE FSS PROGRAM**

### **2-II.A. HOUSING-ASSISTED FAMILIES ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN FSS**

The Section 8 and public housing programs through which families are eligible to participate in the FSS program was expanded by the 2018 Economic Growth Act to allow participants in HCV Homeownership, Moderate Rehabilitation, Moderate Rehabilitation Single Room Occupancy, and Family Unification Program (FUP), including the Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Initiative.

#### EIC Policy

The PHA will serve families in the FSS program from the housing programs indicated in the chart below:

| <b>Section 8 Housing Programs</b> | <b>PHA Serves</b> |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| S8 Rental Certificates            |                   |
| S8 Rental Vouchers                | X                 |
| Special Purpose Vouchers such as  |                   |
| VASH                              |                   |
| FYI                               |                   |
| Mainstream Vouchers               |                   |
| Family Unification Program        |                   |
| Moderate Rehabilitation           |                   |
| Single Room Occupancy             |                   |
| Multifamily Housing               |                   |
| HCV Homeownership                 |                   |

## **2-II.B. PHAs REQUIRED TO OPERATE AN FSS PROGRAM**

Each PHA that received funding for public housing units under the FY 1991 and FY 1992 FSS incentive award competitions must operate a public housing FSS program. Each PHA that received funding for Section 8 rental certificates or vouchers under the combined FY 1991/1992 FSS incentive award competition also must operate a Section 8 FSS program.

In addition, unless the PHA receives an exemption under 24 CFR 984.105, each PHA for which HUD reserved funding (budget authority) for additional rental certificates or vouchers in FY 1993 through October 20, 1998, must operate a Section 8 FSS program. Each PHA for which HUD reserved funding (budget authority) to acquire or construct additional public housing units in FY 1993 through October 20, 1998, must operate a public housing FSS program as well.

Every PHA that was required to administer an FSS program on May 24, 2018 (the enactment date of the Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer Protection Act) must continue to operate that FSS program for the total number of families determined by HUD on that date unless the PHA receives an exception as described in 24 CFR 984.105(d).

### **Mandatory Minimum Program Size (MMPS) [24 CFR 984.105]**

PHAs that are required to operate an FSS program under 24 CFR 984.101 are subject to a minimum program size requirement.

#### EIC Minimum Program Size

As determined by HUD as of May 24, 2018, the EIC's FSS MMPS is 63

### ***Maintaining Mandatory Minimum Program Size***

Although the discretion to do so ultimately rests with the PHA, mandatory minimum program size can decrease as FSS participants successfully complete the program. Per the regulation, for each family that completes the program by fulfilling its FSS contract of participation on or after May 24, 2018, the mandatory minimum program size for a PHA's FSS program is reduced by one slot. However, if an FSS slot is vacated by a family that has not completed its FSS contract of participation obligations, the slot must be filled by a replacement family which has been selected in accordance with the FSS family selection procedures [24 CFR 984.105(b)(2)].

#### EIC Policy

The PHA will reduce the FSS mandatory minimum program size by one for each family that completes the program by fulfilling its FSS contract of participation.

### ***Option to Operate Larger FSS Program***

A PHA may choose to operate an FSS program of a larger size than the minimum required by HUD [24 CFR 984.105(a)(3)].

#### **EIC Policy**

EIC may operate an FSS program of a larger size than its mandatory minimum program size, where the program will not exceed 65.

### ***Exception to Program Operation [24 CFR 984.105(c)]***

The requirement to establish and carry out an FSS program may be waived with approval from HUD. In order to waive the requirement, the PHA must provide a certification to HUD that the establishment and operation of an FSS program is not feasible because of a lack of accessible supportive services funding, a lack of the availability of programs under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, a lack of funding for reasonable administrative costs, a lack of cooperation by other units of state or local government, or a lack of interest in participating in the FSS program on the part of eligible families.

An exception will not be granted if HUD determines that local circumstances do not preclude the PHA from effectively operating an FSS program that is smaller than the minimum program size.

### ***Reduction in Program Size***

Rather than a full exception to program operation, a PHA may also be permitted to operate an FSS program that is smaller than the minimum program size. As with the full exception, HUD may grant the PHA such a partial exception if the PHA provides to HUD a certification that the operation of an FSS program of the minimum program size is not feasible because of a decrease in or lack of accessible supportive services [24 CFR 984.105(d)].

### ***Expiration of Exception***

The approval for a full or partial exception to the FSS minimum program size requirement expires five years from the date of HUD approval of the exception. If a PHA seeks to continue an exception after its expiration, the PHA must submit a new request and a new certification to HUD for consideration [24 CFR 984.105(e)].

### **2-II.C. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS [24 CFR 984.106]**

A PHA may enter into a Cooperative Agreement with one or more multifamily-assisted housing owners to voluntarily make the PHA's FSS program available to the owner's housing tenants. The Cooperative Agreement must include all the requirements for such agreements found in 24 CFR 984.106 and 24 CFR 887.107.

#### EIC Policy

EIC will not enter into Cooperative Agreements with any multi-family housing owners.

### **2-II.D. ESTIMATE OF PARTICIPATING FAMILIES [24 CFR 984.201(d)(2)]**

The PHA must provide an estimate of the number of eligible FSS families who can reasonably be expected to receive supportive services under the FSS program based on available and anticipated federal, tribal, state, local, and private resources.

#### EIC Policy

Sixty-three (63), eligible FSS families can reasonably be expected to receive supportive services under the FSS program, based on available and anticipated federal, tribal, state, local, and private resources.

### **2-II.E. ELIGIBLE FAMILIES FROM OTHER SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROGRAMS [24 CFR 984.201(d)(3)]**

If applicable, the PHA must enter the number of families, by program type, who are participating in any other local housing self-sufficiency program who are expected to agree to execute an FSS contract of participation.

#### EIC Policy

EIC will not enroll families from other Self-Sufficiency programs.

### **2-II.F. ELIGIBILITY OF A JOINT PROGRAM [24 CFR 984.201(e); FAQ on FSS Final Rule Implementation 7/23/23, Imp42]**

A PHA that wishes to operate a joint FSS program with other PHAs or owners of multifamily-assisted housing may combine its resources with one or more of these entities to deliver supportive services to families enrolled from both entities in their FSS programs. These combined partners must have separate action plans with the same policies that meet the requirements of this part and will provide for the establishment and operation of the combined FSS program. These action plans have different information in the family demographics and mandatory program size sections.

#### EIC Policy

EIC will not combine resources with any other PHA to deliver support services, have a joint action plan, or establish or operate a combined FSS Program.

## **PART III: PROGRAM OPERATION**

### **2-III.A. OVERVIEW**

Federal regulations specify requirements for FSS program operation regarding deadlines for program start-up and when the PHA is expected to have attained full enrollment. A timetable illustrating when the PHA intends to meet these deadlines is included as part of the required contents of the action plan.

### **2-III.B. PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION DEADLINE**

The deadlines for program implementation differ depending on whether the FSS program is voluntary or mandatory.

#### **Voluntary Program [24 CFR 984.301(a)]**

There is no deadline for implementation of a voluntary program. However, a voluntary program may not be implemented before the requirements specified in 24 CFR 984.201 have been satisfied (see Sections 1-II.A.–1-II.D.).

## 2-III.C. TIMETABLE FOR PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION [24 CFR 984.201(d)(13)]

A timetable for implementation of the FSS program is part of the required contents of the FSS action plan. Unless otherwise required under a Notice of Funding Opportunity, there is no deadline for the implementation of a voluntary program.

### EIC Policy

For mandatory FSS programs, the PHA has the obligation to continue to fill their mandatory FSS slots effective May 24, 2018, as determined by the HUD field office.

EIC has implemented, or updated its ongoing FSS Program according to the following timetable:

| <b>Activity</b>                     | <b>Month and Date</b>   |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Establish PCC                       | 08/2022 Renewed         |
| Conduct Program Needs Assessment    | 08/2022 In Place        |
| Resource Identification             | 08/2022 updated         |
| Establish Policies                  | 08/2022 In place        |
| Design Service Delivery             | 08/2022 Updated         |
| Develop Administrative Procedures   | 08/2022 In place        |
| Begin Service Delivery              | 08/2022 Ongoing         |
| Conduct Outreach                    | 08/2022 Ongoing         |
| Conduct Orientations                | 08/2022 Ongoing         |
| Conduct Individual Needs Assessment | 08/2022 Ongoing         |
| Begin Contracting                   | 08/2022 Ongoing         |
| Complete Contracting                | 07/2022 Full Enrollment |

## PART IV: DEFINITIONS

### 2-IV.A. DEFINITIONS [24 CFR 984.103]

The terms *1937 Act*, *fair market rent*, *HUD*, *low-income family*, *public housing*, *public housing agency (PHA)*, *secretary*, and *Section 8*, as used in this document are defined in the 24 CFR Part 5.

The term *very low-income family* is defined in 24 CFR 813.102 and 24 CFR 913.102.

The terms used in this document have the following definitions as defined by 24 CFR 984.103 and this family self-sufficiency action plan.

*Baseline annual earned income* means the FSS family's total annual earned income from wages and business income (if any) as of the effective date of the FSS contract. When calculating baseline annual earned income, all applicable exclusions of income must be applied, *except for* any disregarded earned income or other adjustments associated with self-sufficiency incentives that may apply to the determination of annual income.

*Baseline monthly rent* means 1) the FSS family's total tenant payment (TTP), as of the effective date of the FSS contract, for families paying an income-based rent as of the effective date of the FSS contract; or 2) the amount of the flat or ceiling rent (which includes the applicable utility allowance), and including any hardship discounts, as of the effective date of the FSS contract. For families paying a flat or ceiling rent this is as of the effective date of the FSS contract.

#### EIC Policy

*Benefits* means a government benefit of money or monetary value given to an individual by a federal, state, or local government agency for purposes of financial assistance, including but not limited to, Medicaid, supplemental nutritional assistance program benefits and Social Security, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, and unemployment compensation benefits.

#### EIC Policy

*Benefits cliff* means the sudden and often unexpected decrease in public benefits that can occur with a small increase in earnings. When income increases, families sometimes lose some or all of these economic supports.

#### EIC Policy

*Certain interim goals* means the family has met all its obligations under the CoP to date, including completion of the ITSP interim goals and tasks to date.

*Certification* means a written assertion based on supporting evidence, provided by the FSS family or the PHA or owner, which must be maintained by the PHA or owner in the case of the family's certification, or by HUD in the case of the PHA's or owner's certification. These must be made available for inspection by HUD, the PHA or owner, and the public, when appropriate. In addition, these will be considered accurate unless the Secretary or the PHA or owner, as applicable, determines otherwise after inspecting the evidence and providing due notice and opportunity for comment.

*Chief executive officer (CEO)* means the CEO of a unit of general local government who is the elected official or the legally designated official having primary responsibility for the conduct of that entity's governmental affairs.

#### EIC Policy

*Comply with the lease* means the FSS family is compliant with the lease if it has not been evicted for repeated or serious violations of the lease as defined in the HCV administrative plan and Public Housing admissions and continued occupancy policy; or if they have been evicted for repeated and serious violations of the lease, the family has pursued their right to grieve, and the family has prevailed in either the grievance hearing or the informal hearing process.

*Contract of participation (CoP)* means a contract in a form approved by HUD, entered into between a participating FSS family and a PHA operating an FSS program that sets forth the terms and conditions governing participation in the FSS program. The contract of participation includes all individual training and services plans entered in between the PHA and all members of the family who will participate in the FSS program, and which plans are attached to the contract of participation as exhibits. For additional details, see 24 CFR 984.303.

*Current annual earned income* means the FSS family's total annual earned income from wages and business income (if any) as of the most recent reexamination of income, which occurs after the effective date of the FSS contract. When calculating current annual earned income, all applicable exclusions of income will apply, including any disregarded earned income and other adjustments associated with self-sufficiency incentives or other alternative rent structures that may be applicable to the determination of annual income.

*Current monthly rent* means either the FSS family's TTP as of the most recent reexamination of income, which occurs after the effective date of the FSS contract, for families paying an income-based rent as of the most recent reexamination of income; or the amount of the flat rent, including applicable utility allowance or ceiling rent. This amount must include any hardship discounts, as of the most recent reexamination of income, which occurs after the effective date of the FSS contract, for families paying a flat rent or ceiling rent as of the most recent reexamination of income.

*Earned income* means income or earnings included in annual income from wages, tips, salaries, other employee compensation, and self-employment. Earned income does not include any pension or annuity, transfer payments, any cash or in-kind benefits, or funds deposited in or accrued interest on the FSS escrow account established by a PHA on behalf of a participating family.

*Effective date of contract of participation* means the first day of the month following the month in which the FSS family and the PHA entered into the contract of participation.

*Eligible families* for the FSS program means current participants in Section 8, residents of public housing, or residents in multifamily-assisted housing if a Cooperative Agreement exists.

## EIC Policy

*Enhance the effectiveness of the FSS program* means a demonstrable improvement in the quality of an FSS program in which the enrollment ratio, escrow balance average, and graduation rate is at or above the national average as measured in HUD's Composite Scores in FR Notice 11/15/18.

*Enrollment* means the date that the FSS family entered the contract of participation with the PHA.

*Family self-sufficiency program* or *FSS program* means the program established by a PHA within its jurisdiction to promote self-sufficiency among participating families, including the provision of supportive services to these families, as authorized by section 23 of the 1937 Act.

*FSS escrow account* means the FSS escrow account authorized by section 23 of the 1937 Act.

*FSS escrow credit* means the amount credited by the PHA to the participating family's FSS account.

*FSS family* means a family that receives Section 8 assistance or resides in public housing (section 9), that elects to participate in the FSS program, and whose designated adult member (head of FSS family) has signed the CoP.

*FSS family in good standing* means an FSS family that is in compliance with their FSS CoP, has either satisfied or are current on any debts owed the PHA or owner, and is in compliance with the regulations in 24 CFR Part 5 regarding participation in the relevant rental assistance program.

*FSS-related service program* means any program, publicly or privately sponsored, that offers the kinds of supportive services described in the definition of *supportive services*.

*FSS slots* refer to the total number of public housing units or the total number of rental vouchers that comprise the minimum size of a PHA's respective Section 8 and public housing FSS program.

*FSS Program Coordinator* means the person(s) who runs the FSS program. This may include (but is not limited to) performing outreach, recruitment, and retention of FSS participants; goal setting and service coordination/coaching of FSS participants; collaborating with the community and service partners; and tracking program performance.

*FY* means federal fiscal year (starting with October 1, and ending September 30, and designated by the calendar year in which it ends).

## EIC Policy

*Good cause* means circumstances beyond the control of the FSS family:

### **Family circumstances**

Death in the family

Serious illness

Medical emergency

Mandatory court appearances

Involuntary loss of employment

Loss of head of household through death, incarceration, or removal from lease

Change in the ITSP improving progress toward economic self-sufficiency

### **Community circumstances**

Significant reduction in workforce (over 20 percent reduction in employment field)

Significant interruption in service delivery (over three-month interruption)

Provider noncompliance with regulation

Provider unable or unwilling to provide service

Provider offering inferior service

### **Active pursuit of a current or additional self-sufficiency goal**

Resolution of a barrier to employment

Resolution or mitigation of debt or financial obligation

Completion of a college degree or technical training

Completion of a work-related certification

Credit repair towards homeownership readiness

*Head of FSS family* means the designated adult family member of the FSS family who has signed the CoP. The head of FSS family may, but is not required to be, the head of the household for purposes of determining income eligibility and rent.

*Individual Training and Services Plan (ITSP)* means a written plan that is prepared by the PHA or owner in consultation with a participating FSS family member (the person with for and whom the ITSP is being developed), and which describes the final and interim goals for the participating FSS family member, the supportive services to be provided to the participating FSS family member, the activities to be completed by that family member, and the agreed upon completion dates for the goals, and activities. Each ITSP must be signed by the PHA or owner and the participating FSS family member and is attached to and incorporated as part of the CoP. An ITSP must be prepared for each adult family member who elects to participate in the FSS program, including the head of FSS family who has signed the CoP.

#### EIC Policy

*Knowledgeable professional* means a person who is knowledgeable about the situation, has training, education, certification, or licensure provided by recognized professional associations and institutions that legitimizes their professional opinion, is competent to render a professional opinion, and is not able to gain, monetarily or otherwise, from the PHA FSS program decision in the area to which they are certifying.

*Multifamily-assisted housing, also known as project-based rental assistance (PBRA)*, means rental housing assisted by a Section 8 Housing Payments Program, pursuant to 24 CFR Parts 880, 881, 883, 884, and 886.

#### EIC Policy

*Other costs related to achieving obligations in the contract of participation* means any costs necessary to complete an interim goal, a final goal, or tasks related to such in the ITSP.

*Owner* means the owner of multifamily-assisted housing.

*Participating family* is defined as *FSS family* in this section.

*Program coordinating committee (PCC)* means the committee described in 24 CFR 984.202.

*Public housing* means housing assisted under the 1937 Act, excluding housing assisted under Section 8 of the 1937 Act.

*Section 8* means assistance provided under Section 8 of the 1937 Act (42 U.S.C. 1437f). Specifically, multifamily-assisted housing, as defined in this section; tenant-based and project-based rental assistance under section 8(o) of the 1937 Act; the HCV homeownership option under section 8(y) of the 1937 Act; Family Unification Program (FUP) assistance under section 8(x) of the 1937 Act; and the Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation (Mod Rehab) for low-income families and Moderate Rehabilitation Single Room Occupancy (Mod Rehab SRO) for homeless individuals under 24 CFR part 882.

*Self-sufficiency* means that an FSS family is no longer receiving Section 8, public housing assistance, or any federal, state, or local rent or homeownership subsidies or welfare assistance. Achievement of self-sufficiency, although an FSS program objective, is not a condition for receipt of the FSS account funds.

## EIC Policy

*Supports* means, but is not limited to, transportation, childcare, training, testing fees, employment preparation costs, other costs related to achieving obligations outlined in the CoP, and training for FSS Program Coordinator.

*Supportive services* mean those appropriate services that a PHA will coordinate on behalf of an FSS family under a CoP. These may include child care of a type that provides sufficient hours of operation and serves an appropriate range of ages; transportation necessary to enable a participating family to receive available services or to commute to their places of employment; remedial education; education for completion of secondary or post-secondary schooling; job training, preparation, and counseling; job development and placement; follow-up assistance after job placement and completion of the contract of participation; substance/alcohol abuse treatment and counseling; training in homemaking and parenting skills; and personal welfare services that include substance/alcohol abuse treatment and counseling, and health, dental, mental health and health insurance services; household management; money management; counseling regarding homeownership or opportunities available for affordable rental and homeownership in the private housing market (including information on an individual's rights under the Fair Housing Act) and financial empowerment that may include financial literacy, coaching, asset building, money management; and any other services and resources, including service coordination and reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities, that the PHA may determine to be appropriate in assisting FSS families to achieve economic independence and self-sufficiency.

*Unit size* or *size of unit* refers to the number of bedrooms in a dwelling unit.

*Very low-income family* is defined as set out in 24 CFR 813.102

*Welfare assistance* means (for purposes of the FSS program only) income assistance from federal or state welfare programs and includes only cash maintenance payments designed to meet a family's ongoing basic needs. Welfare assistance does not include nonrecurrent, short-term benefits that are designed to deal with a specific crisis situation or episode of need, or are not intended to meet recurrent or ongoing needs and will not extend beyond four months; work subsidies (i.e., payments to employers or third parties to help cover the costs of employee wages, benefits, supervision, and training); supportive services such as child care and transportation provided to families who are employed; refundable earned income tax credits; contributions to, and distributions from, individual development accounts under TANF; services such as counseling, service coordination, peer support, child care information and referral, transitional services, job retention, job advancement and other employment-related services that do not provide basic income support; transportation benefits provided under a Job Access or Reverse Commute project, pursuant to section 404(k) of the Social Security Act, to an individual who is not otherwise receiving assistance; amounts solely directed to meeting housing expenses; amounts for health care; food stamps and emergency rental and utilities assistance; and SSI, SSDI, or social security.