

Each Housing Agency (HA) must enter into a contract of participation with each eligible family that opts to participate in the FSS program. Each HA must consult with local officials to develop an action plan containing descriptions of the size, characteristics, and needs of the population to be served by its proposed FSS program; the services and activities it will provide; how the program will be implemented; the public and private resources through which services and activities will be provided; a time-table for implementation; and other data necessary for HUD to ensure coordinated implementation of program services and activities.

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1.0 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

Response to this collection of information is mandatory by law (Section 23 (c) & (g) of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937, as added by Section 554 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (PL 101-625) for participation in the FSS program.

The information collected on this form is considered sensitive and is protected by the Privacy Act. The Privacy Act requires that these records be maintained with appropriate administrative, technical, and physical safeguards to ensure their security and confidentiality. In addition, these records should be protected against any anticipated threats to their security or integrity which could result in substantial harm, embarrassment, inconvenience, or unfairness to any individual on whom the information is maintained.

HUD may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

HA Instructions for Executing the FSS Contract of Participation

Parties to the Contract/Signatures

The head of the participating family must be the adult member of the family who is the head of the household for income eligibility and rent purposes.

Term of Contract

The effective date is the first day of the month following the date the contract was signed by the family and the HA's representative.

The expiration date is five years from the effective date of the contract.

If the HA decides to extend the term of the contract, the original expiration date listed on page one of the contract must be crossed out and the new expiration date added.

If a family moves under Section 8 portability procedures and is going to participate in the receiving HA's FSS program, the effective date of the contract between the family and the receiving HA is the first day of the month following the date the contract was signed by the family and the HA's representative. The expiration date of the contract between the receiving HA and the family **must** be the same as the expiration date of the contract between the initial HA and the family.

FSS Escrow Account

The income and rent numbers to be inserted on page one may be taken from the amounts on the last reexamination or interim determination before the family's initial participation in the FSS program, unless more than 120 days will pass between the effective date of the reexamination and the effective date of the contract of participation. If it has been more than 120 days, the HA must conduct a new reexamination or interim redetermination.

If a family moves under Section 8 portability procedures and is going to participate in the receiving HA's FSS program, the receiving HA must use the amounts listed for annual income, earned income, and family rent on page one of the contract between the initial HA and the family.

Changes to the Contract

This contract of participation can only be changed to modify the contract term, the head of the family, or the individual training and services plans.

Any change of the head of the family under the contract must be included as an attachment to the contract. The attachment must contain the name of the new designated head of the family, the signatures of the new head of the family and an HA representative, and the date signed.

Any change/s to an individual training and services plan must be included as a revision to the individual training and services plan (attachment) to which the change applies. The revision must include the item changed, signatures of the participant and an HA representative, and the date signed.

For extensions to the contract term, see the "Term of Contract" section.

If, twelve months after the effective date of the contract, a family in the Section 8 FSS program moves outside of the HA's jurisdiction under Section 8 portability procedures, an HA may take one of the following actions:

- (1) The initial HA may permit the family to continue to participate in its

FSS program, if the family demonstrates to the initial HA's satisfaction that it can meet the family responsibilities of the contract in the new location. In this case, the existing contract remains in effect with no change. The initial HA must transfer the family's FSS escrow account balance when the family is absorbed by the receiving HA.

- (2) The receiving HA may permit the family to participate in its FSS program. If so, the initial HA must terminate its contract with the family. The initial HA must also transfer the family's FSS escrow account balance when the family is absorbed by the receiving HA. The receiving HA will execute a new contract with the family.
- (3) In cases where the family cannot fulfill its family obligations in the new location, and the receiving HA does not permit the family to participate in its FSS program, the contract between the initial HA and the family shall terminate and the family will lose the funds in its FSS escrow account.

Individual Training and Services Plans

The contract must include an individual training and services plan for the head of the family. Other family members age eighteen and older may choose to execute an individual training and services plan if agreed to by the HA.

The resources and supportive services to be provided to each family member must be listed in the individual training and services plans which are attachments to the contract of participation.

Page one of each participant's individual training and services plan includes space for the final goal and the first interim goal needed to achieve the final goal. The additional pages provide a format for recording each interim goal and specific information related to its achievement. The first page of each participant's plan must be signed by the participant and an HA representative.

Interim goals must be specified along with the activities and services needed to achieve them. For example, a single mother with two children who has an interim goal of completing her secondary education might require several different activities and services to achieve that goal. These could include transportation, tutoring, and child care.

All completion dates included in the individual training and services plans must be on or before the contract of participation expires.

One of the interim goals for families receiving welfare assistance is to become independent of welfare assistance for at least twelve consecutive months before the end of the contract. Any family that is receiving welfare assistance **must** have this included as an interim goal in the head of the family's individual training and services plan.

The final goal listed on the individual training and services plan of the head of the family **must** include getting and maintaining suitable employment specific to that individual's skills, education, job training, and the available job opportunities in the area.

Incentives

If the HA has chosen to offer other incentives in connection with the FSS program, these incentives may be included in the individual training and services plans or as an attachment to this contract.