

Referral Services May Include:

- **Child Care**
- **Transportation**
- **GED Preparation**
- **Education**
- **Resume Preparation**
- **Job Search/Placement**
- **Job Training**
- **Career Planning**
- **Counseling**
- **Support Groups**
- **Self-Esteem Building**
- **Credit Counseling**
- **Homeownership Counseling**

***Take a Chance Invest
in Yourself!***

30 Liza Harmon Drive
Westbrook, ME 04092

Westbrook Housing

Westbrook Housing

**THE
FAMILY
SELF-SUFFICIENCY
PROGRAM**



**WESTBROOK HOUSING
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Family Self-Sufficiency Program

What Is the Family Self Sufficiency Program?

The Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program links Section 8 participants with health and human service agencies to help them achieve economic independence. With housing as a stabilizing force, families are able to invest their energy in other efforts (i.e. employment, education, job training) necessary to achieve self-sufficiency. Each participating family signs a Contract of Participation which lists the services available to the family and the goals and obligations the family agrees to complete. Each family's contract package will be individually tailored to the specific needs of the family for services, training, counseling and other assistance the family needs to become self-sufficient. The head of the household or designated adult member must agree to seek and retain employment. This does not however, restrict the head of the household from training or advancing their education and then becoming employed. The Contract of Participation is for up to five years, but may be extended for two additional years for good cause. It may be modified as family circumstances change, if these changes are mutually agreeable to the family and Westbrook Housing. Termination and withdrawal from the FSS Program will not affect the Section 8 housing assistance the family is receiving.



Homeownership might be within your reach with the help of the FSS program

Escrow Account

The FSS escrow account offers the family the opportunity to save for the future. During the term of the Contract of Participation, Westbrook Housing will establish an interest-bearing escrow account. The amount of the escrow account reflects what would normally be an increase in the rent due to an increase in the family's earned income.

The family may withdraw the funds in the escrow account when they have met their final goals and are no longer receiving Federal, State or Public welfare assistance (TANF) for at least one consecutive year at the end of their contract. The family may use the final disbursement of the escrow funds without restriction.

Westbrook Housing may authorize a partial disbursement of the escrow funds for contract-related expenses if the family has completed specific interim goals. Contract-related expenses may include, but are not limited to: school tuition and fees, job training expenses, business start-up expenses or a vehicle when public transportation is unavailable or inaccessible to the family.