

505



**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

FROM: Economic Development Agency

SUBMITTAL DATE:
April 28, 2011

SUBJECT: Recognition and History of the Family Self-Sufficiency Program in Riverside County

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

- 1) Recognize the Family Self-Sufficiency Program and its recent funding award of \$345,000; and
- 2) Receive and File the History of the FSS Program

BACKGROUND: Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) is a HUD program that encourages communities to develop local strategies to help Section 8 families obtain employment that will lead to economic independence and self-sufficiency. Public housing agencies (PHAs) work with welfare agencies, schools, businesses, and other local partners to develop a comprehensive program that gives participating FSS family members the skills and experience to enable them to obtain employment that pays a living wage. FSS was established in 1990 by section 554 of the National Affordable Housing Act.

(Continued)

Robert Field
Assistant County Executive Officer/EDA

FINANCIAL DATA	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$ 0	In Current Year Budget:	Yes
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$ 0	Budget Adjustment:	No
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$ 0	For Fiscal Year:	2010/11

COMPANION ITEM ON BOARD OF DIRECTORS AGENDA: No

SOURCE OF FUNDS: US Department of Housing and Urban Development	Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Requires 4/5 Vote	<input type="checkbox"/>

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: APPROVE

BY:
Jennifer L. Sargent

County Executive Office Signature

FORM APPROVED BY COUNTY COUNSEL
BY: ANITA C. WILLIS
DATE: 4-28-11
Departmental Concurrence

Consent
 Policy
 Consent
 Policy
 Dep't Recomm.:
 Per Exec. Ofc.:

Prev. Agn. Ref.: N/A

District: ALL

Agenda Number:

3.14

BACKGROUND: (Continued)

On Thursday, March 24, 2011, the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan announced that public housing agencies across the United States will receive nearly \$54 million to link low-income families with the necessary education and job training to put them on the path to self-sufficiency. The Housing Authority of the County of Riverside (HACR) was awarded \$345,000. This funding will allow the HACR to hire four full time FSS Coordinators who will work alongside with the current FSS Coordinator to link adults in the Section 8 - Housing Choice Voucher program to local organizations that provide job training, childcare, counseling, transportation and job placement. This was the 2nd largest award made in California. Nationwide, California received the largest funding amount with 99 positions funded totaling \$6,521,260.

Participants in the HCV/FSS program sign a five year contract that requires the head of the household to get a job that pays a livable wage which results in the family no longer receiving welfare assistance for a minimum of one year prior to completion of their FSS Contract of Participation. As the family's earned income increases they are able to pay a higher portion of their rent. A portion of that increased income is deposited in an interest-bearing escrow account. If the family completes its FSS contract, the family receives the escrow funds that they can use for any purpose, including paying educational expenses, starting a business or purchasing a home of their own. While the law provides that a family may complete its FSS contract and receive its escrow account while continuing to receive housing assistance under the voucher program, the HACR is very proud of the fact that 99% of its FSS Graduates no longer require rental assistance.

The HACR started its FSS Program in 1993 and highlights achieved to date include:

- 202 FSS graduates to date
- 52 FSS graduates have purchased homes of their own
- 99% of FSS graduates that have graduated no longer require any form of welfare assistance and rental assistance
- 2010 Challenge Merit Award Recipient. This recognition was bestowed upon the HACR by the California State Association of Counties in recognition of the innovative programs (FSS Scholarship Fund and Revolving Loan Fund) offered by the HACR's FSS Program during times when resources are dwindling.