



FSS Update

ANICE SCHERVISH CHENAULT, MSW (SHE/HER)

ARIZONA NAHRO

TEXAS HOUSING ASSOCIATION

GEORGIA NAHRO

NEBRASKA NAHRO

OREGON FSS & SC CONFERENCE

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FY22 FSS Program Outlook

FY22 NOFO

Final FSS Rule Published

All FSS Programs revise FSS Action Plan –
Due September 30, 2022

Update FSS Guidebook and Online Training

Finalize Composite Score

Support program design shifts (e.g. trauma informed approach,
involvement of employers) with Technical Assistance

Increase program monitoring and compliance -
See Self-Assessment and Annual Report tools on FSS Resources
page

FSS Final Rule – What's Next?

Final Rule published in Federal Register

- Final Rule Webinar & Office Hours

New Contract of Participation Form (HUD-52650)

New SAMPLE Escrow Calculation Worksheet

- Webinar on Escrow Calculation

Action Plan Checklist & Sample FSS Action Plan

- Webinar on FSS Action Plan

Updated Guidebook

Updated Online Training & Quiz

- Requirement to re-take online training

Upcoming Technical Assistance Webinar Series



Trauma-Informed Care
Program Design Best
Practices (see FSS
Resources page)



Motivational Interviewing



Building Regional Service
Coordinator Networks



Selecting & Training Staff
+ Leadership
Development, Motivation,
and Vicarious Trauma



Recruitment and
Retention of participants









Using data to Improve
Your Program & Tell Your
Story



Current Important Issues



Supportive Service Investments

-  FSS
-  Jobs Plus
-  ROSS
-  Project SOAR
-  JRAP
-  Connect Home

700+ PHAs served by CSS

3,800+ PHAs in the U.S.

Funding Levels

| Self-Sufficiency Programs (now separate line item) | FY 2022 Enacted | FY2023 President's Proposed |
|---|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Jobs Plus | \$15 Million | \$20 Million |
| FSS | \$120 Million | \$120 Million |
| ROSS | \$35 Million | \$35 Million |
| Total | \$170 Million | \$175 Million |

Legislative Heads-Up

- ▶ FY22 Funding for renewal and new programs
- ▶ FY23 looking to be level or increase
- ▶ Senate mark-up committee report re: expansion positions
- ▶ Senate mark-up committee report re: Composite Score

FY22 FSS NOFO

- ▶ Published August 3, 2022
- ▶ Due October 7, 2022 (Extended!)
- ▶ Renewal AND New program
- ▶ PHAs AND PBRA owners

- ▶ Webinar and FAQ available on [HUD Funds Available page](#)

Eligible Uses

- ▶ Number of coordinators for which you were funded
- ▶ Training stipend in fringe

Participant Count

- ▶ In FY21 NOFO, everyone got a “grace” year.
- ▶ In FY22 – another grace year
 - ▶ Get your participant count (enrollment, progress, exit 50058 Section 17) into PIC by ASAP anyway!!

Other Important Information

- ▶ Two-year funding – CY23 and CY24 – ask for both if you want both
- ▶ Review NOFO before you engage a grant writer (it's VERY easy)

HCV/PH Program Functions

HCV or PH Program Functions: *Per the FY 2021 FSS NOFA, the FSS Coordinator may perform routine HCV and/or PH program functions, such as annual reexaminations for FSS participants, on a limited basis and only if the use of the FSS funds enhances the effectiveness of the FSS Program. This provision is to be employed only to the extent that these functions do not interfere with the FSS Program Coordinator's ability to fully fulfill the role of the FSS Program Coordinator as their primary work. Performance of routine HCV and/or PH functions for non-FSS families does not enhance the effectiveness of the FSS program and is therefore an ineligible use of FSS funds. Additionally, per the FY 2020 FSS NOFA, while FSS funds may be used to perform some homeownership functions for FSS families, this may not be the sole function for which funds are used. Sections IV.F.2.b and IV.F.2.c of the FY 2020 FSS NOFA describe the requirements that must be met for these activities to be eligible.*

- ▶ ***Grantees requesting to have the FSS coordinator perform HCV/PH program functions must submit, to its local HUD Field Office, a narrative justification, explaining the routine HCV and/or PH program function(s) performed by the FSS Program Coordinator, how it will enhance the effectiveness of the FSS program, and why it does not impede the ability of the FSS Program Coordinator(s) to effectively perform FSS functions. The Grantee must also certify that the function(s) is not performed for non-FSS families. Once the Grantee has received approval from its local HUD Field Office to complete these activities and has certified they will not perform them for non-FSS families, they are not required to submit this justification on an annual basis, i.e. Grantees only need this approval one time.***

COVID waivers

<https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/PIH/documents/Round6FAQsfinal.pdf>

▶ GA11. I have a Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program participant who is at the end of their two-year Contract of Participation (CoP) extension. Can I use the waiver described in PH and HCV-6 from PIH Notice 2020-13 REV-1 to extend their CoP for longer than 7 years? (Updated 9-29-20)

▶ A. No. The authority made available under the CARES Act and implemented through PIH Notice 2020-13, REV-1 only allows you to consider COVID-19 as “good cause” in granting the normal extension (up to 2 years). The CARES Act did not provide HUD the authority to offer a blanket waiver to 24 CFR 984.303(d), which states that extensions may be up to 2 years. If a PHA has a participant who is nearing the end of the second year of extension and, except for COVID-19, would meet the requirements for graduation, please follow the standard process to request a waiver through the HUD field office, which then submits a recommendation to HUD Headquarters (HQ), as described in PIH Notice 2018-16.

<https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/PIH/documents/PIH-2018-16.pdf>

FSS Final Rule

Statutory Changes

- ▶ **Permanentize expansion to Multi-Family (PBRA) owners**
 - ▶ MF-only programs or Cooperative Agreement with PHA
 - ▶ PHAs w Cooperative Agreement can use NOFO funds to serve PBRA FSS participants
- ▶ **FSS Graduates from any rental program count toward reduction in HCV mandatory program size (Permanent)**
- ▶ **Codify funding formula into law**
- ▶ **Eliminate the reduction in escrow for families between 50% and 80% AMI**
- ▶ **Make period of eligibility for funds 3 years (will allow re-captured funding to be used again for new awards)**

Statutory Changes

- ▶ Old statute required Contract of Participation be signed (and completed) by Head of Household
 - ▶ **New Statute reads that the CoP may be signed by any member of the family.**
- ▶ Old statute had the CoP lasting 5 years from execution of CoP.
 - ▶ **New statute has CoP lasting 5 years from first re-certification after execution of CoP**
- ▶ Old statute had forfeited escrow go back to Op Fund or HAP
 - ▶ **New statute says forfeited escrow “shall be used by the eligible entity for the benefit of participating families in good standing.”**

Non-Statutory Proposed Changes

- ▶ Remove requirement for family to be welfare-free for 12 months
- ▶ Eliminate 120-day re-certification Rule
- ▶ Eliminate 30% Rule (alternative graduation)
- ▶ Expand the definition of “good cause” for CoP extension. Included to allow for educational goals, career advancement and additional steps toward self-sufficiency
- ▶ Ports
- ▶ Disposition in case of Permanent Disability

Impacts of COVID across CSS Programs

Opportunities

- ▶ Many PHAs shifted to remote systems for files, enrollments, etc.
- ▶ Many programs expanded systems and skills for remote engagement
- ▶ Used outreach around meeting immediate needs as opening to build relationships and connect with families for enrollment at opportune moment
- ▶ Sometimes virtual meetings/programming have increased participation (e.g., transportation, childcare not needed)

Challenges

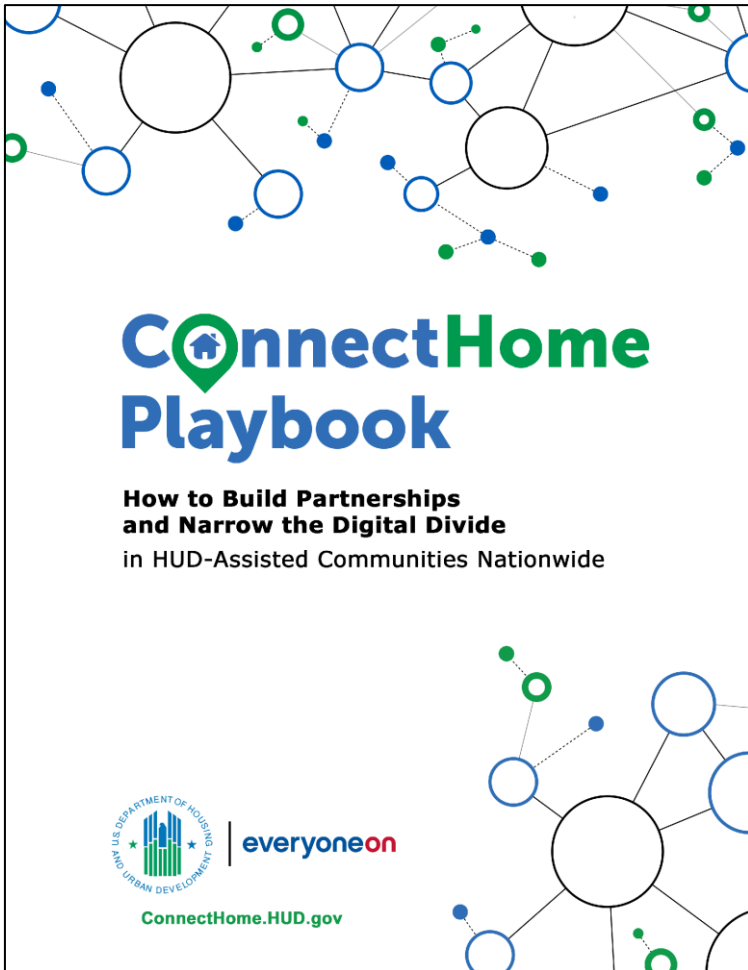
- ▶ Significant job loss
- ▶ Inability to meet in person; how to maintain engagement
- ▶ CSS programs impacted by overall changes in PHA operations
- ▶ Resident health, connectivity and childcare, children at home for virtual school

Other Programs and Initiatives

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING



- Initiative aimed at narrowing the digital divide for HUD-assisted families. **Expansion will be announced later this year.**
- Stakeholders and communities provide affordable:
 - High-speed in-home Internet
 - Desktop and laptop computers
 - Digital literacy training
- Consult the step-by-step [ConnectHomeUSA Playbook](#) for connecting HUD-assisted residents in your community.
- TA products - webinars, newsletters, annual conference, toolkits and more available [here](#).
- Estimated Impact:
 - Over 75,800 new in-home Internet connections
 - Over 30,000 devices distributed
 - Over 20,000 residents connected with digital inclusion training
 - Approximate value: \$26.9 million





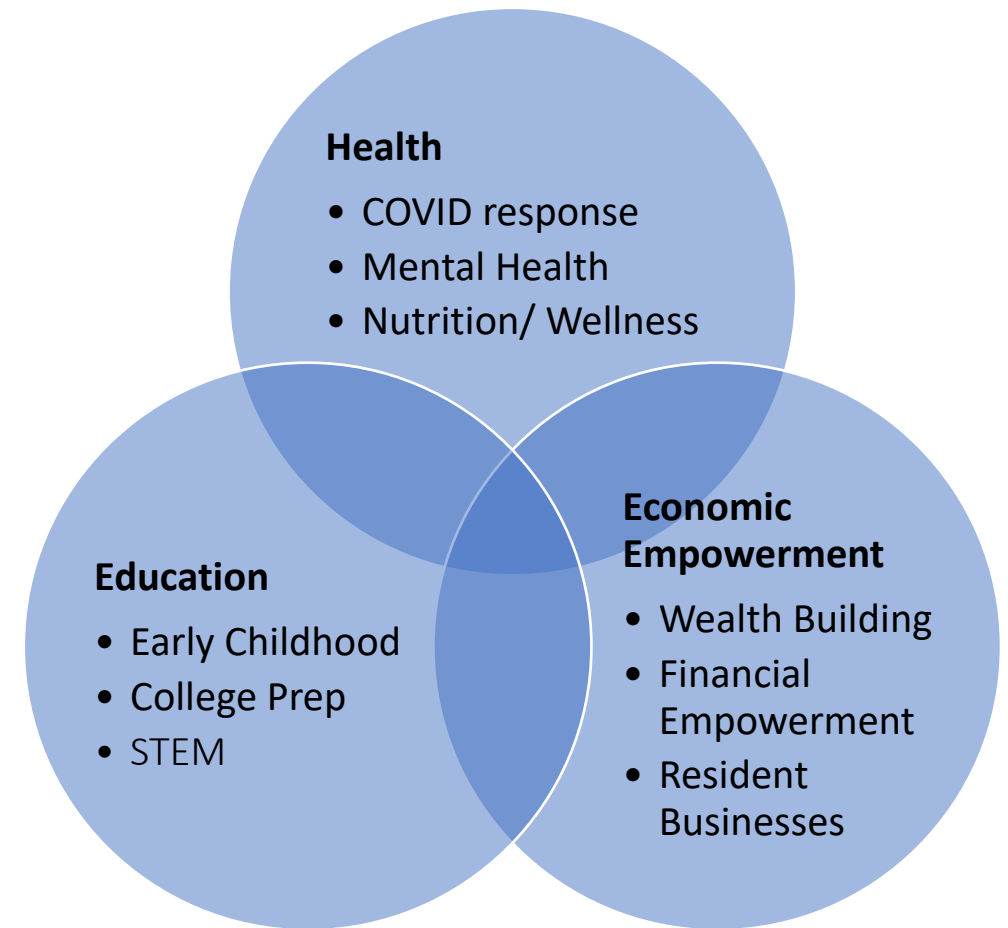
Other resources for broadband:



- **Affordable Connectivity Program:**
 - \$30 monthly subsidy for internet access
 - Up to \$100 for a device (if ISP participates and if resident contributes >\$10 but <\$50)
 - [Overview of ACP and Application](#)
 - [ACP Participating ISP Providers by State](#)
 - [Consumer Outreach Toolkit](#)
- **ACP on the horizon:** housing pilot to understand barriers and increase enrollment. Federal Communications Commission will fund selected pilot communities.
- www.Internetforall.gov (new website; one-stop-shop for all federal broadband grant programs)
- Have a question about broadband – use [Ask-a-Question](#)

HUD Strong Families (HSF)

- Began as Father's Day Initiative focused on reconnecting families (cookouts, resource fairs)
- Rebranded to HSF to include resources that support the entire family
- Opportunity to leverage existing network and expand
- Will serve as the vehicle to deliver general resident support guidance to all PHAs



Resident Feedback: COVID-19

- **A Forum** with resident councils that are also ROSS grantees to discuss impacts of COVID.
- **Objective:**
 - Learn the impacts of COVID-19 on public housing residents in areas of childcare, jobs, internet connectivity, housing, and health.
 - Understand role HUD and other agencies can play in COVID-19 response and recovery.
- **Potential outreach series**



Other Current CSS Projects

- ▶ 20-month financial empowerment Communities of Practice available to select Jobs Plus and ROSS cohorts
- ▶ 4-part webinar series for Financial Capability Month, integrating the American Rescue Plan. <https://www.hud.gov/strongfamilies>
- ▶ Ongoing PIH COVID-19 newsletter and webinar series on how PHAs can build partnerships for vaccine confidence, access, and distribution
- ▶ Connect Home USA webinar on FCC's new Emergency Broadband Benefit Program <https://connecthomeusa.org/>
- ▶ [Healthy Together: A Toolkit for Health Center Collaborations with HUD-Assisted Housing and Community-Based Organizations.](#)

Federal Resources to Support Residents

HUD PIH



Financial Empowerment Resources

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB)

- Your Money, Your Goals
 - Annual trainings for frontline staff working with residents
 - Making spending decisions to help them track their goals
 - Keeping track of income and bills
 - Building emergency savings
 - Understanding credit reports

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)

- Visit [Mymoney.gov](https://www.mymoney.gov) - a one stop shop for financial resources.
- FDIC's free financial education curriculum, [MoneySmart](https://www.money-smart.org), can help people of all ages and income enhance their financial skills and create positive banking relationships.

Financial Empowerment Resources, Cont.

Free weekly credit reports are available through April 2021 at [AnnualCreditReport.com](https://www.annualcreditreport.com). Residents can request credit reports from each of the three major credit reporting agencies: Experian, TransUnion, and Equifax.

America Saves for Young Workers (ASYW)

- Initiative managed by the Consumer Federation of America
- Promotes Workplace Saving for Young Adults
- Free electronic program teaches workplace saving through direct deposit
 - Benefits:
 - Free for summer youth programs
 - Youth save money, preparing for their futures
 - Goal:
 - Instill savings behavior in young people

Digital Inclusion Resources

Connectivity

HUD's nonprofit partner, Everyone On, has a low-cost Internet offer [locator tool](#) to find low-cost internet and computers by zip code.

Separately, you also can check out this [open-source listing](#) of regional and local internet offers.

Free or Low-Cost Computers

Residents can use Everyone's [locator tool](#).

Alliance for Technology Refurbishing and Reuse's [Locator Map](#) to find low-cost computers in your area.

Digital Literacy and Other Job Training:

<https://www.goodwill.org/jobs-training/training-and-career-advancement/>

Employment Resources - DOL

- WIOA and PHA responsibility to the OneStop
- Job Corps - <https://www.jobcorps.gov/>
- YouthBuild - <https://www.youthbuild.org/>
- From the Ground Up: Creating Sustainable Partnerships between Public Housing Authorities and Workforce Investment Boards
 - https://www.hud.gov/sites/documents/14_DOL_PUBLICATION.PDF

Employment Resources – DOL, Cont.

This site (www.workforcegps.org) houses several Communities of Practice and Collections all opened to the public.

Workforce GPS (Career Pathways), <https://careerpathways.workforcegps.org/>, helps workforce development leaders, practitioners, and policymakers expand state and local career pathways efforts currently underway or being planned.

Reentry Employment Opportunities, <https://reo.workforcegps.org/>, offers practitioners new ideas and tools to do the invaluable work of changing lives and renewing futures of former offenders.

Youth Connections, <https://youth.workforcegps.org/>, is an on-line learning destination for public workforce system staff and partners who serve youth.

Employment Resources – Other Sources

Residents can find searchable listings of local job postings online, including the National Labor Exchange's [Need a Job Now](#) board with immediate jobs available during the pandemic.

Nationwide listing of open [apprenticeship opportunities](#).

Residents can Learn how to file for [unemployment insurance benefits](#).

Resources for Elderly Residents and Residents with Disabilities

AARP Foundation's [Connect2Affect program](#) provides information, self-assessments and affordable options for older people to stay connected. For those without online access, ask a caretaker or family member to assist in finding resources through this program.

[Eldercare Locator](#) is nationwide service that connects older Americans and their caregivers with trustworthy local support resources.

Health Resources

Residents can call 1-800-985-5990 or text “TalkWithUs” to 66746 to speak with a free, trained counselor through the [Federal Disaster Distress Helpline](#).

[National Parent Helpline](#) Emotional support and advocacy for parents: 1-855-427-2736.
Available: Monday - Friday 12pm-9am CT.

The American Red Cross Training Services has provided a free [Psychological First Aid](#) tool that may aid in supporting residents and staff during COVID-19.

[SAMHSA’s Suicide and Crisis Lifeline – 988](#) offers 24/7 access to trained crisis counselors who can help people experiencing mental health-related distress, which could be thoughts of suicide, mental health or substance use crisis, and any other kind of emotion distress.

[The Housing and Services Resource Center](#) was created for people who work in the organizations and systems that provide housing resources and homelessness services, behavioral and mental health services, independent living services and other supportive services, and others who are working to help people live successfully and stably in the community.

Health Resources, cont.

Community-based health care providers in underserved areas

Locate Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) at the [National Center for Health in Public Housing](#), including:

[Public Housing Primary Care \(PHPC\) Grantees and Associated Clinics](#) (106)

[Health Centers In or Immediately Accessible to Public Housing](#) (297)

[Health Centers serving Public Housing residents](#) (88)

Flu LEAD (Leadership to End Access Disparities)

Partner with your local FQHC to join a flu vaccination education campaign

Supports coordination for on-site vaccination clinics

MAP: [Health Centers and Facilities Close to Public Housing Developments](#)

Health Resources, cont.

[HUD's Food Pantry Finder](#) and [FoodFinder](#) allow you to search nearby food pantries by zip code. Many food pantry operations now follow social distancing practices or allow for contactless pick up.

U.S. Department of Agriculture Resources

- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)** — Residents can apply for benefits and contact your local office using SNAP's [interactive map](#).
- **Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)** — Residents can dial the [toll-free number](#) for assistance in locating the local agency to learn more and apply.
- **Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)** — has launched a [Meals for Kids Site Finder](#). Meals may be taken home, and parents or guardians may pick meals for their children if the state allows.
- **Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)** — Offers nutritious food to improve the health of low-income persons 60 and older. Residents can [learn more about the CSFP](#) and learn more about enrollment.
- **Benefits Eligibility (TANF, SNAP)** - www.benefits.gov

Youth Resources

First Book is an international nonprofit social enterprise that provides access to new books and educational resources for programs and classrooms working with kids from low-income families.

Provides brand new, age-appropriate free or low-cost books for low income kids: www.firstbook.org

All PHAs, and anyone working with kids in need can sign up for free, and everyone in your organization can register. You can use these books for anything--local resident meetings, book fairs, community events, and yes, the annual HUD Strong Families event!

Contact the First Book Help Team by calling (866) READ-NOW or emailing help@firstbook.org

Book Rich Environments

- Core Partners: National Book Foundation, Department of Education, Urban Libraries, Centers for Family and Learning
- One million books already distributed!

Youth Resources, Cont.

✓ www.youth.gov

✓ Summer Food Service Program – through USDA www.youtube.com/watch?v=DYr_aFcy_KE

✓ Safe Routes to School – DOT – find your state coordinator -
<http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/saferoutes/>

Community Resources

Free tax preparation - <https://irs.treasury.gov/freetaxprep>

Benefits Eligibility

- Visit benefits.gov the official benefits website of the U.S. government for easy, online access to information across multiple Federal agencies.

Emergency assistance resources (rental, utilities, basic necessities)

- Dial 211 from any phone / or visit <https://www.211.org/> and search by zip code
- www.usa.gov/help-with-bills

Key HUD CSS Resources

| Program | Resource | Location |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Jobs Plus | Jobs Plus Evaluation Reports | https://www.mdrc.org/project/jobs-plus-community-revitalization-initiative-public-housing-families#overview |
| FSS | FSS Program Guidebook | https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/FSS-Program-Guidebook.pdf |
| FSS | Key Documents, Resources & Research | https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/hcv/fss |
| ROSS | Running ROSS Step-by-Step | https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/ross/guide/introduction/ |
| ConnectHome | ConnectHome Playbook | https://connecthome.hud.gov/playbook |
| Reentry | It Starts with Housing | https://www.hud.gov/sites/documents/HUD_IT_STARTS_WITH_HOUSING.PDF |
| HUD Strong Families | Registration & Information | https://www.hud.gov/strongfamilies |

Questions?

- ▶ FSS Resources
https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/hcv/fss
- ▶ FSS@HUD.gov
- ▶ FSS listserve - [HUD's Office of Public and Indian Housing - Destination \(govdelivery.com\)](https://www.govdelivery.com/accounts/HUD)