

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Committee on Financial Services

From: FSC Majority Staff

Date: September 22, 2017

Subject: September 27, 2017, Housing and Insurance Subcommittee Hearing Entitled
“Overview of the Family Self-Sufficiency Program”

On Wednesday, September 27, 2017, at 3:00 p.m. in Room 2128 of the Rayburn House Office Building, the Housing and Insurance Subcommittee will hold a hearing to examine the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Accordingly, witnesses will provide a general overview of the FSS program in addition to their community-level perspectives on the program’s success rate and remaining challenges.

This will be a one-panel hearing with the following witnesses:

- Mr. Aaron Gornstein, President and CEO, Preservation of Affordable Housing
- Mr. Jeffrey Lubell, Director of Housing and Community Initiatives, Abt Associates
- Mr. Stacy L. Spann, Executive Director, Housing Opportunities Commission of Montgomery County
- Ms. Kristin Siglin, Senior Vice President, Policy, Housing Partnership Network
- Ms. Sherry Riva, Executive Director, Compass Working Capital

Background on the FSS Program

Enacted in 1990, the FSS program, based out of HUD, is designed to help residents in Public Housing developments, the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program, and some project-based Section 8 properties make progress toward economic security by combining stable affordable housing with work-promoting service

coordination and a rent incentive in the form of an escrow account that grows as a resident's income increases.

Graduating participants gain access to the escrow account established in their name. The graduating participants also decrease or eliminate the need for rental assistance, making more resources available to serve more families over time. The program provides financial support to FSS "Coordinators" who help program participants achieve employment goals and accumulate assets. The FSS Coordinators in each local program build partnerships with employers and service providers in the community to help participants obtain jobs and supportive services. These services may include child care, transportation, basic adult education, job training, employment counseling, substance/alcohol abuse treatment, financial literacy, asset-building skills, and homeownership counseling among others.¹

¹ FY 2018 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Congressional Justifications, Public and Indian Housing, Family Self-Sufficiency, Available at <https://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=13-Fam-Self-Suff.pdf>