

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

## I applied, now what?

- Once an application is received, the applicant will be contacted to attend a briefing if the application is complete.
- Once an applicant has attended the briefing they will be set up for an individual initial interview.
- Once the initial interview is completed applicant will receive a letter in the mail to verify if they have been accepted into the FSS Program.
- After the applicant has been accepted into the FSS program they will complete and sign the Contract of Participation.

## Does the FSS program pay for my schooling or child care cost while I work or attend school?

No, the FSS program doesn't assist participants with their education or child care costs while working or in school. FSS participants who attend school utilize Pell Grants, Student Loans or work part-time. For FSS participants that need help with child care they are directed towards the East Texas Childcare Assistance Program (CCAP) which provides financial assistance to low-income families who are in need of child care services. These families must be working, in school, searching for employment or in training, or enrolled in the East Texas Workforce Solutions.

## What is the escrow account and how does an increase in my work income help me?

A benefit of participation in the FSS program is that as a household's income increases due to an increased in earned income, a portion of that increase is deposited into an interest-bearing escrow (savings) account. This income must be from an increase in employment salary and not from SSI, unemployment, Child Support, TANF, etc. The account is released to a participant when he/she successfully graduates from the FSS program by completing his/her goals, successfully meeting the FSS 5 year requirements and having been TANF free for the final 12 months in the FSS program.