

# STEP UP SUNCOAST

## FAMILY SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROGRAM

*A Strength Based Program to Support Educational Success  
Available in Manatee, Hardee, and DeSoto Counties*

***Family Self-Sufficiency Program...a program to assist individuals who are committed to attaining economic self-sufficiency for themselves and for their families through work and educational involvement.***

*This program is for low-income students, focused on furthering their education through approved certificates or degrees. You must be a full time student or about to start a curriculum.*

A Family Development Specialist will provide coaching and support to:

- ✓ Assist with, or facilitate connections to resources such as:
  - Housing
  - Child Care
  - Utility Assistance
  - Personal and Career Coaching
  - Education
  - Financial Literacy
  - Resume' Writing
  - Interviewing Skills and Techniques
  - Transportation
- ✓ Assist families to develop plans to reach personal and career-related goals.
- ✓ Provide ongoing coaching and support as individual's progress through the phases of the program.
- ✓ Provide economic assistance where appropriate.

### **IS IT FOR ME?**

Individuals who apply for this program will:

- ✓ Enrolled in an approved curriculum, in an approved technical school, college or university.
- ✓ Have demonstrated a commitment to attain self-sufficiency through employment and a full time educational pursuit.
- ✓ Fall within these family income guidelines as of October 1, 2019  
Updated for poverty level change 6/2020 per CARES ACT/CSBG new guidelines.

Number of People in the Household	Total Family Income No Greater Than
1	\$25,520
2	\$34,480
3	\$43,440
4	\$52,400
5	\$61,360
6	\$70,320
7	\$79,280
8	\$88,240
Add this amount for each additional person	\$8960.

- ✓ Have completed schooling through the 12<sup>th</sup> grade or earned a state approved GED.
- ✓ Reside in Manatee, Hardee or DeSoto County.
- ✓ Be employed 16 hours per week **or** be participating in mandatory educational clinicals.

## **HOW DO I APPLY?**

Individuals who are interested in participating in the Family Self-Sufficiency Program can;

- ✓ Complete the attached Interest Survey and return it to June DeBaun, at the address given.
- ✓ An FSS representative will contact you to review program criteria. At that time you will have an opportunity to ask any questions you might have so that you can understand fully the scope of the program.
- ✓ Those who are interested in applying for selection into the program will receive an application for admission.

## **WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I APPLY?**

The selection process for the Family Self-Sufficiency Program includes the following three steps:

- ✓ Applicants who have applied, and meet the criteria for participation in the program will be scheduled for an individual interview with the Selection Committee. The committee consists of the CEO/President of Step Up Suncoast, the Family Development Manager, and the Family Development Specialist.
- ✓ Applicants who have been selected for an interview must bring with them two professional letters of recommendation which include comments about the applicant's motivation and ability to complete the Family Self-Sufficiency Program.
- ✓ Final selection of Family Self-Sufficiency Program participants will be made by the Selection Committee. All applicants who participate in the interview process will be notified by mail that they either have, or have not been selected for participation in the program.

## **WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I AM ACCEPTED?**

- ✓ Ongoing scheduled appointments to review needs and help you maintain stability while in school.
- ✓ Positive support through coaching, guidance, and joint problem solving.
- ✓ Financial Literacy, Resume Writing, and Interviewing Skills as needed.
- ✓ Referral to appropriate community agencies when appropriate.
- ✓ Applicable economic support.

## **HOW LONG WILL I REMAIN IN THE PROGRAM?**

Program services can continue for up to five years as long as the participant is working and going to school, and meeting program requirements. Program participants who become economically self-sufficient and no longer have the need for any form of government assistance will have successfully completed the Family Self-Sufficiency Program!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

**Heather Nicklaus**

**Family Development Manager**

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*Helping People, Changing Lives*