

Pennsylvania's Family Savings Account

> ready > set > succeed

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

- > The Pennsylvania Family Savings Account (FSA) Program is a matched savings program established as a partnership between the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Assets for Independence (AFIA), and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development's FSA Program.
- > Award grants to 45 community based non-profit agencies to establish programs serving 66 counties , providing matched funds to low-income persons own savings. The program provides \$1 to \$1 match for low-income savers.
- > The program may match up to \$1,000 of a person's own savings per year or \$2,000 over a 24-month (prior to 7/05) or 36-month (after 7/05) period.

PROGRAM PURPOSE

- > To expand opportunities and incentives for moderate to low-income Pennsylvanians by promoting self-sufficiency, financial literacy and encouraging systematic long-term savings and asset development.
- > Support local community institutions, increase investment and buying power in low-income areas and complement existing social service programs.

PARTICIPANT (SAVER) ELIGIBILITY

- > Recipients of TANF and other eligible individuals and working families whose household earned income at the time of enrollment is not more than 200% of the official poverty standard set by the federal Office of Management and Budget. There is also a household net asset limit of \$10,000, minus primary residence and one vehicle. Note: after 7/5/05, some savers may be eligible for the new income eligibility standard of 80% of area median income. Local FSA agency will have current eligibility criteria.
- > Agree to save an amount that averages \$10/week or \$40 a month.
- > Saver must declare and save towards a FSA approved goal and must attend at least four (4) basic financial literacy classes and two (2) asset workshops.

APPROVED GOALS

1. First time purchase of a home , or home repair/ certain renovations.
2. Post secondary, vocational and higher education for self or a child.
3. Micro-enterprise (business) capitalization.
4. Purchase of a car as the primary means of transportation to/from work or school, or purchase of a computer as part of business /or pursuit of secondary education.

For more information, contact:
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