

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS AND RULES

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS FOR THE  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

IN THE MATTER OF:

██████████,

Claimant

Reg. No. 2009-14978

Issue No. 2009

Case No: ██████████

Load No. ██████████

Hearing Date:

April 15, 2009

DHS County: Oakland

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Jeanne M. VanderHeide

HEARING DECISION

This matter was conducted on April 15, 2009 pursuant to MCL 400.9 and MCL 400.37 upon the Claimant's request for hearing received by the Department on January 27, 2009. At the scheduled hearing date, the Claimant did not appear. The representative, ██████████ ██████████ appeared on behalf of the Claimant. Linda Riffenburg, FIM appeared on behalf of the Department.

ISSUE

Whether the Department properly determined the Claimant is not "disabled" for purposes of Medical Assistance based on disability (MA-P) retroactive MA-P for April 2008.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the competent, material and substantial evidence on the whole record, finds as material fact:

1. On July 30, 2008, the Claimant applied for MA-P and retroactive MA-P to April of 2008.



CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Medical Assistance (MA) program is established by Title XIX of the Social Security Act and is implemented by Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). The Department of Human Services (DHS or department) administers the MA program pursuant to MCL 400.1 *et seq.*, and MCL 400.105. Department policies are found in the Program Administrative Manual (PAM), the Program Eligibility Manual (PEM) and the Program Reference Manual (PRM).

Federal regulations require that the department use the same operative definition for “disabled” as used for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) under Title XVI of the Social Security Act. 42 CFR 435.540(a).

“Disability” is:

. . . the inability to do any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or which has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months  
. . . 20 CFR416.905

In determining whether an individual is disabled, 20 CFR 416.920 requires the trier of fact to follow a sequential evaluation process by which current work activity; the severity of impairment(s); residual functional capacity, and vocational factors (i.e., age, education, and work experience) are assessed in that order. A determination that an individual is disabled can be made at any step in the sequential evaluation. Then evaluation under a subsequent step is not necessary.

First, the trier of fact must determine if the individual is working and if the work is substantial gainful activity (SGA). 20 CFR 416.920(b). In this case, under the first step, the Claimant was not present at the hearing April 15, 2009. No independent admissible evidence of the Claimant’s current SGA was submitted. Whether the Claimant was engaged in SGA up to

April 15, 2009 was not possible to determine due to lack of evidence. In step one, it is the Claimant's burden to provide evidence that he is not engaged in SGA. Without more evidence the Claimant can not be determined to be eligible for MA-P at step one.

The undersigned finds that based on the Claimant's failure to appear and testify at the hearing April 15, 2009, a determination of eligibility or ineligibility due to SGA cannot be made. The Claimant is found "not disabled" at step one.

The State Disability Assistance (SDA) program which provides financial assistance for disabled persons is established by 1939 PA 280, as amended. The Department of Human Services (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers the SDA program pursuant to MCL 400.1 et seq., and MAC R 400.3151-400.3180. Department policies are found in the Program Administrative Manual (PAM), the Program Eligibility Manual (PEM) and the Program Reference Manual (PRM).

A person is considered disabled for purposes of SDA if the person has a physical or mental impairment which meets federal SSI disability standards for at least ninety days. Receipt of SSI or RSDI benefits based on disability or blindness or the receipt of MA benefits based on disability or blindness (MA-P) automatically qualifies an individual as disabled for purposes of the SDA program. Other specific financial and non-financial eligibility criteria are found in PEM 261.

In this case, there is insufficient evidence to support a finding that Claimant's impairments meet the requirements under SSI disability standards, or prevents substantial gainful activity. This Administrative Law Judge finds the Claimant is presently not disabled for purposes of the SDA program.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that the Claimant is “not disabled” for purposes of the Medical Assistance program and State Disability Assistance programs.

It is ORDERED; the Department’s decision is AFFIRMED.

/s/  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeanne M. VanderHeide  
Administrative Law Judge  
For Ishmael Ahmed, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: 04/21/09

Date Mailed: 04/22/09

**NOTICE:** Administrative Hearings may order a rehearing or reconsideration on either its own motion or at the request of a party within 30 days of the mailing date of this Decision and Order. Administrative Hearings will not order a rehearing or reconsideration on the Department's motion where the final decision cannot be implemented within 90 days of the filing of the original request.

The Claimant may appeal the Decision and Order to Circuit Court within 30 days of the mailing of the Decision and Order or, if a timely request for rehearing was made, within 30 days of the receipt date of the rehearing decision.

JV/dj

cc:

A large black rectangular redaction box covering several lines of text in the distribution list.