

STATE OF MICHIGAN
STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS AND RULES

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Claimant

Reg No: 2009-15483

Issue No: 3002

Case No:

Load No:

Hearing Date:

April 27, 2009

Ottawa County DHS

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Jeanne M. VanderHeide

HEARING DECISION

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and MCL 400.37 upon the Claimant's request for a hearing. After due notice, a telephone hearing was conducted on April 27, 2009. The Claimant appeared and testified. Dan Boter, Program Manager appeared on behalf of the Department.

ISSUE

Whether the Department properly computed the Claimant's Food Assistance ("FAP") benefits effective 2/4/09 and 2/18/09.

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. The Claimant was a FAP recipient.
2. Claimant received \$176.00 in February of 2009 based on [REDACTED] earned income.

(Exhibit 1, pp. 10-11).

3. Claimant began receiving [REDACTED] in March and the FAP benefits were recalculated on 2/4/09 and again on 2/23/09 when the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] increased. (Exhibit 1, pp. 3-4 & 7-8).
4. Claimant's FAP benefits were reduced to \$14.00 per month. (Exhibit 1, p. 5).
5. Claimant has a household group of one (1) person.
6. The Claimant testified that the mortgage is [REDACTED] per month.
7. The Claimant testified that he is responsible for all utilities in his home.
8. Claimant objected to the FAP calculation and filed this appeal. The Department received the Claimant's Request for Hearing on February 2, 2009.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Food Assistance Program, formerly known as the Food Stamp ("FS") program, is established by the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, and is implemented by the federal regulations contained in Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations ("CFR"). The Department of Human Services ("DHS"), formally known as the Family Independence Agency, administers the FAP program pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et. seq.* and MAC R 400.3001-3015. Departmental policies are found in the Program Administrative Manual ("PAM"), the Program Eligibility Manual ("PEM"), and the Program Reference Manual ("PRM").

The federal regulations define household income to include all earned income. 7 CFR 273.9(b). All monthly income must be converted to a nonfluctuating monthly amount. Only 80% of earned income is counted in determining FAP benefits. PEM 550. Under 7 CFR 273.9, as amended, [REDACTED] is deducted from the gross income of FAP recipients in determining FAP grants. Under 7 CFR 273.9 deductions for excess shelter are also made. PEM 554. Id. There is

a standard heat and utility deduction as well as a standard deduction for telephone bills. Id. The standard deductions are a set amount that is applied regardless of the actual expenses incurred by the Claimant.

In the present case, according to the aforementioned policy on budgeting for the 2/23/09 budget, Claimant has a net monthly income of [REDACTED]. This was obtained by subtracting the standard deduction of [REDACTED] and the excess shelter amount of [REDACTED] from the gross income of [REDACTED]. The amount of food assistance allotment is established by regulations at 7 CFR 273.10. A household of one person with a net monthly income of [REDACTED] was entitled to a monthly FAP grant in March of 2009 of [REDACTED] per month. RFT 260.

For the 2/4/09 budget, Claimant has a net monthly income of [REDACTED]. This was obtained by subtracting the standard deduction of [REDACTED] and the excess shelter amount of [REDACTED] from the gross income of [REDACTED]. The amount of food assistance allotment is established by regulations at 7 CFR 273.10. A household of one person with a net monthly income of [REDACTED] was entitled to a monthly FAP grant in March of 2009 of [REDACTED] per month. RFT 260.

Claimant noted that it is very difficult to feed himself on this amount of food benefits. The undersigned appreciates that economic times are difficult, but finds that the Department properly calculated benefits on both 2/4/09 and 2/23/09. Based upon the foregoing facts and relevant law, it is found that the Department's determination is AFFIRMED.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, finds that the Department properly calculated the Claimant's FAP allotment.

