

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: 2009-16540
Issue No: 3003
Case No: ██████████
Load No: ██████████
Hearing Date:
April 21, 2009
Ionia County DHS

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Steven M. Brown

HEARING DECISION

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and MCL 400.37 upon Claimant's request for a hearing. After due notice, a telephone hearing was conducted from ██████████ on April 21, 2009.

ISSUE

Whether the Department properly computed the Claimant's Food Assistance benefits ("FAP")?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

- (1) Claimant is a FAP recipient.
- (2) On December 12, 2008 Claimant applied for FAP benefits by filing an Michigan Department of Human Services Assistance Application – DHS 1171.
(Exhibit 2)

(3) On December 9, 2008, the Department completed a FAP budget using total income of [REDACTED] based on FIP income received by Claimant [REDACTED] and Claimant's daughter [REDACTED] which resulted in Claimant's total income exceeding the gross income limit of [REDACTED] (Exhibit 5) The Department testified that Claimant's total income should have only been [REDACTED] based on [REDACTED] of FIP income received by Claimant and her daughter, but this amount still exceeded the gross income limit.

(4) On December 9, 2008, the Department sent Claimant an Eligibility Notice which explained that Claimant was not eligible for benefits because her total countable income exceeded the limit. (Exhibit 6)

(5) On March 5, 2009, the Department received the Claimant's hearing request protesting the denial of her application for FAP benefits.

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").

For FAP purposes, all earned and unearned income available to the Claimant is countable. Earned income means income received from another person or organization or from self-employment for duties that were performed for remuneration or profit.

Unearned income means ALL income that is not earned and includes FIP, RSDI and SSI.

The amount counted may be more than the client actually receives because the gross amount is used prior to any deductions. PEM 500

The Department determines a client's eligibility for program benefits based on the client's actual income and/or prospective income. Actual income is income that was already received. Prospective income is income not yet received but expected.

Prospective budgeting is the best estimate of the client's future income. PEM 505

All income is converted to a standard monthly amount. If the client is paid weekly, the Department multiplies the average weekly amount by 4.3. If the client is paid every other week, the Department multiplies the average bi-weekly amount by 2.15.

PEM 505

In the instant case, while Claimant did not think it was fair that she was denied FAP benefits based on her financial situation, she agreed with the income figures the Department used in completing the December 9, 2008 FAP Budget. With the above said, the Department established that it acted in accordance with departmental policy in determining the Claimant's entitlement to FAP benefits.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, finds that the Department acted in accordance with policy in computing Claimant's entitlement to FAP benefits.

Accordingly, the Department's FAP eligibility determination is AFFIRMED.

/s/ _____
Steven M. Brown
Administrative Law Judge
for Ismael Ahmed, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: April 28, 2009

Date Mailed: April 28, 2009

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 60 days of the filing of the original request.

The Claimant may appeal the Decision and Order to Circuit Court within 30 days of the receipt 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.

SMB/db

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