

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: 2009-17568
Issue No: 3002
Case No: [REDACTED]
Load No: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date:
July 13, 2009
Oakland County DHS

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Tyra L. Wright

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 hearing was held on July 13, 2009. The Claimant personally appeared and testified. An Arabic language Interpreter appeared to assist Claimant. A family independence manager represented the Department.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly compute the Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits for April 2009?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

- (1) Claimant is a FAP benefits recipient for a group size of one. His monthly benefit allotment for March 2009 was budgeted at \$146 but Claimant received \$170 due to a stimulus increase.
- (2) At the time, the Department calculated his benefits for April 2009, his monthly rent obligation was \$181 and his monthly SSI income was \$688.

- (3) Claimant disagreed with his monthly allotment amount but did not provide evidence that the Department used incorrect figures when calculating his budget.
- (4) The Department received Claimant's hearing request on March 13, 2009.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Food Assistance Program (FAP) (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 (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers the FAP program pursuant to MCL 400.10, et seq., and MAC R 400.3001-3015. Department policies are found in the Program Administrative Manual (PAM), the Program Eligibility Manual (PEM) and the Program Reference Manual (PRM).

Federal law requires that FAP recipients meet income eligibility standards to receive benefits:

Income and deductions.

(a) *Income eligibility standards.* Participation in the Program shall be limited to those households whose incomes are determined to be a substantial limiting factor in permitting them to obtain a more nutritious diet. Households which contain an elderly or disabled member shall meet the net income eligibility standards for the Food Stamp Program. Households which do not contain an elderly or disabled member shall meet both the net income eligibility standards and the gross income eligibility standards for the Food Stamp Program. Households which are categorically eligible as defined in §273.2(j)(2) or 273.2(j)(4) do not have to meet either the gross or net income eligibility standards. The net and gross income eligibility standards shall be based on the Federal income poverty levels established as provided in section 673(2) of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9902(2)). (7 CFR 273.9)

SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME

(SSI) All Programs

Michigan SSI benefits include a basic federal benefit and an additional amount paid with state funds. The amount paid by the

state and the payment process varies by living arrangement. See PEM 660. For SSI recipients in independent living or household of another, refer to “Current SSA-Issued SSI”, “Retroactive SSA-Issued SSI” and “State SSI Payments” below. For SSI recipients in other living arrangements, refer to just “Current SSA-Issued SSI” and “Retroactive SSA-Issued SSI”.

Current SSA-Issued SSI

SDA, CDC, AMP and FAP Only

Count the gross amount of current SSA-issued SSI as unearned income. (PEM 500, pg. 33)

Under PEM 500, all income that is “NOT specifically excluded” must be considered in calculating FAP benefits. (PEM 500, pg.1). SSI income is not excludable income. Moreover, the Claimant did not offer evidence that the Department used incorrect figures when including his rent or SSI income in his April 2009 budget. Consequently, it is found that the Department properly calculated Claimant’s April 2009 FAP budget. The undersigned has reviewed the April 2009 FAP budget and finds it to be correct.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that the Department properly computed Claimant’s FAP benefits for April 2009.

Accordingly, the Department’s action is AFFIRMED.

/s/ _____
Tyra L. Wright
Administrative Law Judge
for Ismael Ahmed, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: 08/05/09

Date Mailed: 08/06/09

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

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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.

TW/dj

cc:

