

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: 2009-2470  
Issue No: 3002  
Case No: [REDACTED]  
Load No: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date:  
January 26, 2009  
Wayne 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 Kalamazoo, Michigan on January 26, 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 September 25, 2008, the Department completed a new FAP budget for benefit year [REDACTED] through [REDACTED]. The FAP budget was based on a group size of 2 and the income and expenses of Claimant and his wife. The FAP allotment was [REDACTED] which was

increased to [REDACTED] with the State's annual increase(s) effective October 1, 2008. Claimant had previously received [REDACTED]/mo. (Exhibits 1, 3)

3. The Department sent Claimant an Eligibility Notice which explained that his monthly FAP allotment would be [REDACTED]/mo. effective October 2008. (Exhibit 2)

4. On October 15, 2008, Claimant requested a hearing regarding the reduction of his FAP allotment.

5. Claimant testified that he was married in [REDACTED] and promptly informed the Department. He and his wife were receiving [REDACTED]/mo. until the time of the September review. The Department testified that the [REDACTED] was for Claimant only and, therefore, was based only on his income/expenses and for a group size of 1. The Department was asked to produce the FAP budget in this regard, but failed to do so as of the time of this decision.

#### 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. The amount counted may be more than the client actually receives because the gross amount is used prior to any deductions. Unearned income means ALL income that is not earned and includes RSDI and SSI. PEM 500 For income increases that result in a benefit decrease,

action must be taken and notice issued to the client within the Standard of Promptness (FAP – 10 calendar days). PEM 505

The Department determines a client's eligibility for program benefits based on the client's actual income and/or prospective income. Prospective income is income not yet received but expected. Prospective budgeting is the best estimate of the client's future income for future benefits. In some cases, the department's estimate of the client's future monthly income will not equal the actual income received however, as long as the Department uses the best available information to determine future income, and there is no concealed information or mathematical error, the Department's estimate will not be determined inaccurate. All income is converted to a monthly amount. PEM 505

All countable earned and unearned income available to the client must be considered in determining the Claimant's eligibility for program benefits. The Department must consider the gross benefit amount before any deduction, unless Department policy states otherwise. PEM 500

In the instant case, Claimant testified that the Department used the correct income and expense figures in the [REDACTED] FAP budget. Perhaps, the reason for the reduction in benefits was because the Department did not process the information Claimant gave to them back in [REDACTED]. However, there is no question that the Department followed policy when it computed Claimant's benefits for his new benefit year.

#### 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 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: February 5, 2009

Date Mailed: February 19, 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

cc:

[REDACTED]