

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: 200927032
Issue No: 2009
Case No: [REDACTED]
Load No: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date:
August 13, 2009
Saginaw County DHS

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Robert Chavez

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 August 13, 2009.

ISSUE

Was the denial of claimant's application for MA-P and SDA for lack of disability correct?

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 applied for MA-P and SDA on November 6, 2008.
- (2) Claimant is 23 years old.
- (3) Claimant completed the 10th grade, but has not attained his high school diploma or the equivalent.

- (4) Claimant is not currently working.
- (5) Claimant has a prior work history consisting of a caretaker, telephone sales representative, and installer at a car audio shop.
- (6) Claimant performed work as a caretaker and as an installer at a car audio shop at the light and medium exertional level.
- (7) Claimant performed work under the telemarketer position at the sedentary exertional level.
- (8) On [REDACTED], claimant sustained multiple gunshot wounds to the left temporal area, left proximal upper extremity, and bilateral lower extremities at approximately the knee level.
- (9) After being flown to the [REDACTED] Department in [REDACTED], claimant underwent emergency surgery for these injuries, including undergoing a left eye enucleation.
- (10) On [REDACTED], claimant began inpatient physical therapy to improve his gait and mobility and occupational therapy to learn visual compensatory techniques to improve his vision.
- (11) Claimant has had several surgical interventions to correct his left eye and to reconstruct facial bones.
- (12) According to claimant's testimony and reports from various treating sources, claimant has suffered from chronic migraine headaches since he was a child and these headaches have been exacerbated by the injury he sustained to his head.
- (13) Claimant also has diminished functions and pain in his legs as a result of his injuries.

- (14) In addition, according to treating sources, claimant has struggled with depression periodically throughout his life and his symptoms have increased since his gunshot wounds.
- (15) On [REDACTED], claimant was diagnosed with Major Depressive Disorder, displaying such symptoms as social isolation, feelings of worthlessness, hopelessness, anhedonia, decreased concentration, diminished libido, decreased motivation, sleep disturbances (sleeps only 2-3 hours per night), irritability, and weekly suicidal ideation.
- (16) Claimant's physical injuries manifest with extreme pain, documented by several treating sources, hovering around a 6 on the pain scale, with medication and at rest.
- (17) Claimant has been proscribed several narcotics to deal with this pain.
- (18) A form DHS-54 was completed by claimant's treating source on [REDACTED] [REDACTED].
- (19) Claimant is right-handed.
- (20) Claimant's gait is dysfunctional due to injuries to his right leg.
- (21) Claimant is restricted from lifting more than 10-20 pounds and has trouble sitting or walking for extended periods of time.
- (22) Claimant is able to perform most activities of daily living without assistance when he is not suffering from a migraine, though oftentimes he lacks the motivation and/or desire to do so.
- (23) Claimant was given a GAF of 60.

- (24) On April 23, 2009, the Medical Review Team denied MA-P and SDA, stating that claimant was capable of performing other work under the Medical/Vocational grid rules found at 20 CFR 416.920(f).
- (25) On May 14, 2009, claimant filed for hearing.
- (26) On July 1, 2009, the State Hearing Review Team denied MA-P, Retro MA-P and SDA, stating that claimant was capable of performing other work.
- (27) On August 13, 2009, a hearing was held before the Administrative Law Judge. No new evidence was submitted and claimant was unrepresented.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The State Disability Assistance (SDA) program which provides financial assistance for disabled persons is established by 2004 PA 344. The Department of Human Services (DHS or department) administers the SDA program pursuant to MCL 400.10, *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).

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 400.10, *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 of the term “disabled” as is used by the Social Security Administration for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) under Title XVI of the Social Security Act. 42 CFR 435.540(a).

Disability is defined as 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 CFR 416.905

This is determined by a five step sequential evaluation process where current work activity, the severity and duration of the impairment(s), statutory listings of medical impairments, residual functional capacity, and vocational factors (i.e., age, education, and work experience) are considered. These factors are always considered in order according to the five step sequential evaluation, and when a determination can be made at any step as to the claimant's disability status, no analysis of subsequent steps are necessary. 20 CFR 416.920

The first step that must be considered is whether the claimant is still partaking in Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA). 20 CFR 416.920(b). To be considered disabled, a person must be unable to engage in SGA. A person who is earning more than a certain monthly amount (net of impairment-related work expenses) is ordinarily considered to be engaging in SGA. The amount of monthly earnings considered as SGA depends on the nature of a person's disability; the Social Security Act specifies a higher SGA amount for statutorily blind individuals and a lower SGA amount for non-blind individuals. Both SGA amounts increase with increases in the national average wage index. The monthly SGA amount for statutorily blind individuals for 2009 is \$1,640. For non-blind individuals, the monthly SGA amount for 2009 is \$980.

In the current case, claimant has testified that he is not working, and the Department has presented no evidence or allegations that claimant is engaging in SGA. Therefore, the Administrative Law Judge finds that the claimant is not engaging in SGA, and thus passes the first step of the sequential evaluation process.

The second step that must be considered is whether or not the claimant has a severe impairment. A severe impairment is an impairment expected to last 12 months or more (or result in death), which significantly limits an individual's physical or mental ability to perform basic work activities. The term "basic work activities" means the abilities and aptitudes necessary to do most jobs. Examples of these include:

- (1) Physical functions such as walking, standing, sitting, lifting, pushing, pulling, reaching, carrying or handling;
- (2) Capacities for seeing, hearing, and speaking;
- (3) Understanding, carrying out, and remembering simple instructions;
- (4) Use of judgment;
- (5) Responding appropriately to supervision, co-workers and usual work situations; and
- (6) Dealing with changes in a routine work setting. 20 CFR 416.921(b).

The purpose of the second step in the sequential evaluation process is to screen out claims lacking in medical merit. *Higgs v. Bowen* 880 F2d 860, 862 (6th Cir, 1988). As a result, the Department may only screen out claims at this level which are "totally groundless" solely from a medical standpoint. This is a *de minimus* standard in the disability determination that the court may use only to disregard trifling matters. As a rule, any impairment that can reasonably be expected to significantly impair basic activities is enough to meet this standard.

In the current case, claimant has presented medical evidence of chronic migraine headaches according to the great weight of the evidence by both the Department and claimant's treating sources. He has dealt with this condition since he was a child, having to leave previous places of employment as a result of the migraine headaches, and the gunshot wound that he

sustained to the head has exacerbated his condition. There is no evidence that claimant's condition has any likelihood of subsiding. When claimant experiences a migraine headache, he is unable to perform any of the basic work activities enumerated by the Department. The Administrative Law Judge finds that this is a significant impairment to claimant's performance of basic physical work activities, and is therefore enough to pass step two of the sequential evaluation process.

In the third step of the sequential evaluation, we must determine if the claimant's impairment is listed in Appendix 1 of Subpart P of 20 CFR, Part 404. This is, generally speaking, an objective standard; either claimant's impairment is listed in this appendix, or it is not. However, at this step, a ruling against the claimant does not direct a finding of "not disabled"; if the claimant's impairment does not meet or equal a listing found in Appendix 1, the sequential evaluation process must continue on to step four.

The Administrative Law Judge finds that the claimant's medical records do not contain medical evidence of an impairment that meets or equals a listed impairment. Therefore, the claimant cannot be found to be disabled at this step, based upon medical evidence alone. 20 CFR 416.920(d). In making this determination, the undersigned consulted several listings, including 12.04 and 11.03.

With regard to listing 12.04, the undersigned notes that this listing requires a finding of a depressive syndrome, characterized by a multitude of symptoms, many of which claimant does in fact exhibit. The listing also requires that claimant exhibit marked difficulties with the performance of daily activities, maintaining social functioning, maintaining concentration, persistence or pace, repeated episodes of decompensation, or a medically documented history of

a chronic affective disorder. The undersigned finds that claimant falls short of meeting the second prong of the listing.

With regard to listing 11.03, the undersigned considered claimant's migraines as medically equivalent to the listing for epilepsy. The listing for epilepsy requires detailed documentation of the pattern of episodes. Although the undersigned finds claimant's testimony in regards to the severity and frequency of the migraines to be credible, in addition to that of various treating sources, claimant's claims are not sufficiently substantiated by the medical evidence. Therefore, the undersigned finds that claimant is unable to meet the requirements of listing 11.03, and thus cannot be found to be disabled at this step.

Evaluation under the disability regulations requires careful consideration of whether the claimant can do past relevant work (PRW), which is our step four, and if not, whether they can reasonably be expected to make vocational adjustments to other work, which is our step five. When the individual's residual functional capacity (RFC) precludes meeting the physical and mental demands of PRW, consideration of all facts of the case will lead to a finding that

- 1) the individual has the functional and vocational capacity to for other work, considering the individual's age, education and work experience, and that jobs which the individual could perform exist in significant numbers in the national economy, or
- 2) The extent of work that the claimant can do, functionally and vocationally, is too narrow to sustain a finding of the ability to engage in SGA. SSR 86-8.

Given that the severity of the impairment must be the basis for a finding of disability, steps four and five of the sequential evaluation process must begin with an assessment of the claimant's functional limitations and capacities. After the RFC assessment is made, we must

determine whether the individual retains the capacity to perform PRW. Following that, an evaluation of the claimant's age, education and work experience and training will be made to determine if the claimant retains the capacity to participate in SGA.

RFC is an assessment of an individual's ability to do sustained work-related physical and mental activities in a work setting on a regular and continuing basis—meaning 8 hours a day, 5 days a week, or an equivalent work schedule. RFC assessments may only consider functional limitations and restrictions that result from a claimant's medically determinable impairment, including the impact from related symptoms. It is important to note that RFC is not a measure of the least an individual can do despite their limitations, but rather, the most. Furthermore, medical impairments and symptoms, including pain, are not intrinsically exertional or nonexertional; the functional limitations caused by medical impairments and symptoms are placed into the exertional and nonexertional categories. SSR 96-8p, 20 CFR 416.945 (a).

However, our RFC evaluations must necessarily differ between steps four and five. At step four of the evaluation process, RFC must not be expressed initially in terms of the step five exertional categories of “sedentary”, “light”, “medium”, “heavy”, and “very heavy” work because the first consideration in step four is whether the claimant can do PRW as they actually performed it. Such exertional categories are useful to determine whether a claimant can perform at her PRW as is normally performed in the national economy, but this is generally not useful for a step four determination because particular occupations may not require all of the exertional and nonexertional demands necessary to do a full range of work at a given exertional level. SSR 96-8p.

Therefore, at this step, it is important to assess the claimant's RFC on a function-by-function basis, based upon all the relevant evidence of an individual's ability to do work related activities. Only at step 5 can we consider the claimant's exertional category.

An RFC assessment must be based on all relevant evidence in the case record, such as medical history, laboratory findings, the effects of treatments (including limitations or restrictions imposed by the mechanics of treatment), reports of daily activities, lay evidence, recorded observations, medical treating source statements, effects of symptoms (including pain) that are reasonably attributed to the impairment, and evidence from attempts to work. SSR 96-8p.

RFC assessments must also address both the remaining exertional and nonexertional capacities of the claimant. Exertional capacity addresses an individual's limitations and restrictions of physical strength, and the claimant's ability to perform everyday activities such as sitting, standing, walking, lifting, carrying, pushing and pulling; each activity must be considered separately. Nonexertional capacity considers all work-related limitations and restrictions that do not depend on an individual's physical strength, such as the ability to stoop, climb, reach, handle, communicate and understand and remember instructions.

Symptoms, such as pain, are neither exertional or nonexertional limitations; however such symptoms can often affect the capacity to perform activities as contemplated above and thus, can cause exertional or nonexertional limitations. SSR 96-8.

In the current case, it is undisputed that claimant has dealt with migraine headaches since his childhood and that these migraines have been exacerbated by his injuries; the great weight of the medical evidence indicates that it is highly doubtful that claimant will ever live a life free from this condition. Although claimant's functional mental capacity is unaffected between

episodes, each migraine can render claimant unable to perform most, if not all, residual functional capacity for hours or even days at a time.

Furthermore, claimant suffered at least one gunshot wound to each of his extremities. Consequently, his functional capacity in regards to activities involving any of his extremities is severely limited. According to treating sources, claimant is unable to lift more than 10-20 pounds at any time, detrimentally affecting his ability to lift, push, pull, reach, carry or handle objects like he did when he performed work as a caretaker or as an installer at a car audio shop. Additionally, treating sources have labeled his gait as dysfunctional, resulting in a diminished ability to walk, stand, or sit for extended periods.

From these reports, the Administrative Law Judge concludes that claimant has a disabling impairment when considering the functions of lifting, pushing, pulling, reaching, carrying or handling. Furthermore, claimant has difficulties when manipulating fine objects, rising to a disabling impairment when the manipulation requires both hands. Claimant also has limitations in walking, standing, or sitting. Claimant should avoid climbing. Claimant does have some postural limitations (e.g. stooping) due to the injury to his lower extremities and visual limitations due to the loss of his left eye.

Claimant has also made allegations of disabling pain. When considering pain, there must be an assessment of whether the claimant's subjective complaints are supported by an objective medical condition which can be expected to cause such complaints. 20 CFR 416.929, *Rogers v. Commissioner*, 486 F. 3d 234 (6th Cir. 2007). An assessment must be done to consider whether objective medical evidence confirms the severity of the alleged pain or whether the objectively established medical condition is of such a severity that it can reasonably be expected to produce the alleged disabling pain. *Duncan v Secretary of HHS*, 801 F2d 847, 853 (1986); *Felisky v*

Bowen, 28 F3d 213 (6th Cir, 1994). Furthermore, the adjudicator must evaluate the intensity, persistence and limiting effects of the symptoms on the claimant's ability to do basic work activities, i.e. daily activities, location duration, frequency, intensity of symptoms, aggravating and precipitating factors, type, dosage effectiveness, and side effects of any medications, and any other treatment undertaken to relieve symptoms or other measures taken to relieve symptoms such as lying down. *Rogers*.

In this case, medical evidence from claimant's treating sources confirms existence of a condition which can be expected to cause complaints of pain. Due to the multitude of physical injuries suffered by claimant, the disabling pain that he testifies to could come from more than one source. In particular, claimant complains of constant, severe pain in his right leg as a result of the gunshot wounds he sustained, in addition to periodic episodes of severe pain due to migraine headaches, a condition which often results in extreme, sometimes disabling pain. Claimant's treating sources confirm claimant's credibility regarding the complaints of pain, and further state that claimant's injury is one as such that may cause disabling pain. Treating source opinions cannot be discounted unless the Administrative Law Judge provides good reasons for discounting the opinion. *Rogers; Bowen v Commissioner*, 473 F. 3d 742 (6th Cir. 2007). The undersigned sees no reason to discount claimant's treating source opinions.

Therefore, after careful review of claimant's medical record and the Administrative Law Judge's interactions with claimant at the hearing, the undersigned finds that claimant's medical condition is of such a severity that it can reasonably be expected to produce claimant's complaints of disabling pain.

With regard to the complaints of pain, claimant expressed familiarity with the pain scale. Claimant reported his pain to be around a 6 on the scale with the medications, depending on the

day and the circumstances. Claimant described the pain further as a constant, even with medications.

Furthermore, the evidence presented indicates that claimant's medications have more than a nominal impact on claimant's ability to perform basic work functions. The evidence indicates that claimant takes Norco in the amount of 350mg five times per day; Cymbalta in the amount of 30mg, one time per day; Fioricet every 4-6 hours; and Topamax, 25mg, two times per day. All four of these medications have common side effects of dizziness, drowsiness, lightheadedness, somnolence, and sedative-hypnotic states. These medications are known to severely limit an individual's ability to maintain concentration, persistence, pace, and affect; they can also impair memory, and can affect the ability to sustain gainful activity. Claimant has reported all these side effects. Claimant has been restricted from driving while taking the medications. Claimant's medical treatment plans approved by his doctors and pain management specialist include taking the medications.

The Administrative Law Judge therefore concludes that claimant also has functional limitations resulting from his symptoms that affect his abilities to understand, carry out and remember instructions, and maintain concentration, persistence and pace.

Claimant's PRW includes being a caretaker, telephone sales representative, and installer at a car audio shop. Being a caretaker and being an installer at a car audio shop, as typically performed and as described by the claimant, involve the use of both arms. These jobs also require lifting heavy objects, such as the person to whom they are providing care, or large speakers, with both arms. Being a telephone sales representative requires maintaining concentration, persistence and pace. Therefore, given the functional requirements as stated by claimant (which is consistent with how these jobs are typically performed) for each of those jobs,

and claimant's functional limitations as described above, the Administrative Law Judge concludes that claimant does not retain the capacity to perform his past relevant work.

In the fifth step of the sequential consideration of a disability claim, the Administrative Law Judge must determine if the claimant's impairment(s) prevents claimant from doing other work. 20 CFR 416.920(f). This determination is based upon the claimant's:

- (1) residual functional capacity defined simply as "what can you still do despite your limitations?" 20 CFR 416.945;
- (2) age, education, and work experience, 20 CFR 416.963-.965; and
- (3) the kinds of work which exist in significant numbers in the national economy which the claimant could perform despite his/her limitations. 20 CFR 416.966.

See *Felton v DSS* 161 Mich. App 690, 696 (1987).

At step five, RFC must be expressed in terms of, or related to, the exertional categories when the adjudicator determines whether there is other work that the individual can do. However, in order for an individual to do a full range of work at a given exertional level, such as sedentary, the individual must be able to perform substantially all of the exertional **and nonexertional functions** required at that level. SSR 96-8p. The individual has the burden of proving that they are disabled and of raising any issue bearing on that determination or decision. SSR 86-8.

If the remaining physical and mental capacities are consistent with meeting the physical and mental demands of a significant number of jobs in the national economy, and the claimant has the vocational capabilities (considering age, education and past work experience) to make an adjustment to work different from that performed in the past, it shall be determined that the claimant is not disabled. However, if the claimant's physical, mental and vocational capacities do

not allow the individual to adjust to work different from that performed in the past, it shall be determined at this step that the claimant is disabled. SSR 86-8.

For the purpose of determining the exertional requirements of work in the national economy, jobs are classified as “sedentary”, “light”, “medium”, “heavy”, and “very heavy”. These terms have the same meaning as are used in the *Dictionary of Occupational Titles*. In order to evaluate the claimant’s skills and to help determine the existence in the national economy of work the claimant is able to do, occupations are classified as unskilled, semiskilled and skilled. SSR 86-8.

These aspects are tied together through use of the rules established in Appendix 2 to Subpart P of the regulations (*20 CR 404, Appendix 2 to Subpart P, Section 200-204 et. seq*) to make a determination as to disability. They reflect the analysis of the various vocational factors (i.e., age, education, and work experience) in combination with the individual's residual functional capacity (used to determine his or her maximum sustained work capability for sedentary, light, medium, heavy, or very heavy work) in evaluating the individual's ability to engage in substantial gainful activity in other than his or her vocationally relevant past work. Where the findings of fact made with respect to a particular individual's vocational factors and residual functional capacity coincide with all of the criteria of a particular rule, the rule directs a conclusion as to whether the individual is or is not disabled. 20 CFR 404, Subpart P, Appendix 2, Rule 200.00(a).

In the application of the rules, the individual's residual functional capacity, age, education, and work experience must first be determined. The correct disability decision (i.e., on the issue of ability to engage in substantial gainful activity) is found by then locating the individual's specific vocational profile. Since the rules are predicated on an individual's having

an impairment which manifests itself by limitations in meeting the strength requirements of jobs, they may not be fully applicable where the nature of an individual's impairment does not result in such limitations, e.g., certain mental, sensory, or skin impairments. 20 CFR 404, Subpart P, Appendix 2, Rule 200.00(c)-200.00(d).

In the evaluation of disability where the individual has solely a nonexertional type of impairment, determination as to whether disability exists shall be based on the principles in the appropriate sections of the regulations, giving consideration to the rules for specific case situations. The rules do not direct factual conclusions of disabled or not disabled for individuals with solely nonexertional types of impairments. 20 CFR 404, Subpart P, Appendix 2, Rule 200.00(e)(1).

However, where an individual has an impairment or combination of impairments resulting in both strength limitations and nonexertional limitations, the rules are considered in determining first whether a finding of disabled may be possible based on the strength limitations alone; if not, the rule(s) reflecting the individual's maximum residual strength capabilities, age, education, and work experience provide a framework for consideration of how much the individual's work capability is further diminished in terms of any types of jobs that would be contraindicated by the nonexertional limitations. Furthermore, when there are combinations of nonexertional and exertional limitations which cannot be wholly determined under the rules, full consideration must be given to all of the relevant facts in the case in accordance with the definitions and discussions of each factor in the appropriate sections of the regulations, which will provide insight into the adjudicative weight to be accorded each factor.

Claimant is twenty-three years old, with a 10th grade education and prior work experience performed at the sedentary, light, and medium exertional levels. Claimant's exertional impairments likely render claimant able to perform work at the sedentary level.

The medical evidence of records shows that claimant is restricted from lifting over 20 pounds. Claimant has difficulties walking for a sustained period of time, and is unable to stand for any great length. Claimant has few limitations on his ability to sit for protracted periods, though he would occasionally need to move around. These limitations are consistent with the definition of sedentary work. Therefore, the Administrative Law Judge holds that the claimant retains the functional capacity to perform work at the sedentary level.

That being said, claimant's ability to *perform* work at the sedentary level in no way is a judgment of residual functional capacity. RFC is an assessment of an individual's ability to do **sustained** work-related physical and mental activities in a work setting on a regular and continuing basis—meaning 8 hours a day, 5 days a week, or an equivalent work schedule.

Furthermore, this is only a judgment of exertional limitations. The rules state that exertional limitations must first be considered to determine disability solely on strength factors; if those prove inconclusive, nonexertional limitations must be factored in to determine claimant's true RFC.

Claimant's nonexertional limitations, discussed above, are supported by the objective medical evidence. Starting with the basic assumption that claimant's exertional limitations limit claimant to either sedentary work, or, viewing things in a light favorable to the Department, light work, claimant's nonexertional limitations stemming from claimant's complaints of disabling pain and the medication he takes to control that pain render claimant unable to engage in even a full range of sedentary work. Furthermore, even if claimant's nonexertional limitations relating

to claimant's ability to maintain concentration, persistence and pace with regard to work related activities were absent, the undersigned would have serious doubts regarding claimant's ability to sustain employment, even at the sedentary level, due to claimant's migraine headaches. Claimant already has a history of not being able to sustain employment due to the amount of time he misses as a result of his aforementioned condition; he was let go from his positions as a telephone customer sales representative and installer at a car audio shop for those very reasons. The undersigned finds that if claimant was unable to sustain work-related activities in a sedentary work setting *before* his condition was exacerbated by sustaining multiple gunshot wounds, it is highly unlikely that he would be able to do so now.

Therefore, after careful review of claimant's medical records and the Administrative Law Judge's personal interaction with claimant at the hearing, this Administrative Law Judge finds that claimant's exertional and non-exertional impairments render claimant unable to engage in a full range of even sedentary work activities on a regular and continuing basis. 20 CFR 404, Subpart P, Appendix 2, Section 201.00(h). See Social Security Ruling 83-10; *Wilson v Heckler*, 743 F2d 216 (1986). The Department has failed to provide vocational evidence which establishes that claimant has the residual functional capacity for substantial gainful activity and that, given claimant's age, education, and work experience, there are significant numbers of jobs in the national economy which the claimant could perform despite claimant's limitations. Accordingly, this Administrative Law Judge concludes that claimant is disabled for the purposes of the MA program.

With regard to the SDA program, a person is considered disabled for the purposes of SDA if the person has a physical or mental impairment which meets federal SSI disability standards for at least 90 days. Other specific financial and non-financial eligibility criteria are

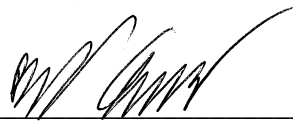
found in PEM 261. As claimant meets the federal standards for SSI disability, as addressed above, and alleges an onset date of 2007, the undersigned concludes that the claimant is disabled for the purposes of the SDA program as well.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that the claimant is disabled for the purposes of the MA and SDA program. Therefore, the decisions to deny claimant's application for MA-P and SDA were incorrect.

Accordingly, the Department's decision in the above stated matter is, hereby,
REVERSED.

The Department is ORDERED to process claimant's MA-P and SDA application and award all benefits that claimant is entitled to receive under the appropriate regulations. The Department is further ORDERED to initiate a review of claimant's disability case in July, 2011.



Robert Chavez
Administrative Law Judge
for Ismael Ahmed, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: 07/08/10

Date Mailed: 07/12/10

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.

RJC/dj

cc:

