

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: 2009-34275
Issue No: 3002
Case No: [REDACTED]
Load No: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date:
September 29, 2009
Kalamazoo County DHS

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Gary F. Heisler

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 September 29, 2009. Claimant appeared and testified through a spanish translator.

ISSUE

Did the Department of Human Services determine the proper amount of Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits?

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 was an ongoing recipient of Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits. Claimant's case required a semi-annual review in August, 2009. The groups current income information was submitted.

(2) On August 14, 2009, a financial eligibility budget was run using the current income. The budget indicated that Claimant was eligible for a \$174 Food Assistance Program (FAP) allotment. Claimant was sent notice of the determination.

(3) On August 24, 2009 Claimant submitted a request for hearing.

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 (DHS or department) 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).

At this hearing Claimant testified that the dollar values used in the budget were correct and she does not feel the Department did anything wrong. Claimant testified she is just worried about the impact of the reduction in their food assistance.

When determining eligibility for Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits in accordance with Department policy, the total income of the household must be evaluated. All earned and unearned income of each household member must be included, unless specifically excluded. Bridges Eligibility Manual, Item 500. The Food Assistance Program (FAP) program provides a deduction from earned income and a deduction for the cost of child care when necessary to enable a Food Assistance Program (FAP) household member to work. A standard deduction from income is allowed for each household. The amount of the standard deduction depends on

the number of members in the household. Certain non-reimbursable medical expenses may be deducted for senior/disabled/veteran group members.

Another deduction from income is provided if monthly shelter costs are in excess of 50% of the household's income, after all of the other deductions have been allowed. There is a maximum deduction for households that do not contain a member classified as a senior, disabled, or veteran. Bridges Eligibility Manual, Items 500 and 554; Program Reference Manual, Table 255; 7 CFR 273.2.

In this case, the Administrative Law Judge has reviewed the Food Assistance Program (FAP) budget. The budget submitted by the Department shows a gross earned income of \$1635. That amount is not correct. The pay check stubs submitted by Claimant show that [REDACTED] is paid \$13.34 per hour. All three check stubs show overtime pay for [REDACTED]. Excluding any overtime, the Departments prospective budgeting policy calculates a gross income of \$2294. If the financial eligibility budget begins with an incorrect income, it cannot possibly result in a correct benefit amount.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides the Department of Human Services DID NOT determine the proper amount of Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits.

It is ORDERED that the actions of the Department of Human Services, in this matter, are REVERSED.

It is further ORDERED that the Department of Human Services recalculate Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits using the verified income submitted by Claimant.

When a new benefit amount is calculated send Claimant notice of the action.

/s/

Gary F. Heisler
Administrative Law Judge
for Ismael Ahmed, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: October 14, 2009

Date Mailed: October 16, 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.

GFH [REDACTED]

cc: [REDACTED]