

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: 2009-34291

Issue No: 3014, 3015

6019

Case No:

Load No:

Hearing Date:

October 1, 2009

Allegan 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 [REDACTED] on October 1, 2009.

ISSUE

Whether the Department properly denied Claimant's application for Food Assistance Program (FAP) and Child Development and Care (CDC) benefits due to excess income?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

- (1) On August 13, 2009, Claimant applied for FAP and CDC benefits. Claimant lives with her boyfriend and their son. (Exhibits 6-21)

(2) On or about August 13, 2009, the Department completed FAP and CDC budget(s) which resulted in excess income for both programs. (Exhibits 1-5)

(3) On August 19, 2009, the Department mailed Claimant a Notice of Case Action which explained that Claimant, her boyfriend and her child are all mandatory group members and that their household income is excess for both programs. (Exhibit A)

(4) On September 1, 2009, the Department received Claimant's hearing request protesting the denial of her application for FAP and CDC benefits.

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. Departmental policies are found in the Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), the Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM), and the Bridges Reference Manual (BRM).

The Child Development and Care program is established by Titles IVA, IVE and XX of the Social Security Act, the Child Care and Development Block Grant of 1990, and the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996. The program is implemented by Title 45 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 98 and 99. The Department of Human Services (DHS or department) provides services to adults and children pursuant to MCL 400.14(1) and MAC R 400.5001-5015. Department policies are contained in the Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), the Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) and the Bridges Reference Manual (BRM).

Group composition is the determination of which persons living together are included in the FAP program group. The relationships of the people who live together affect whether they must be included or excluded from the group. Spouses who are legally married and live together must be in the same group. Parents and their children under 22 years of age who live together must be in the same group regardless of whether the child has his/her own spouse or child who lives with the group. A person acting as a parent and the children for whom he or she acts as a parent who live with him must be in the same group. BEM 212

When CDC is requested for a child, each of the following persons who live together must be in the program group: each child for whom care is requested and each child's parent(s) or stepparent and each child's unmarried, under age 18, sibling(s), stepsiblings or half sibling(s) and the parent(s) or stepparent of any of the above sibling(s) and any other unmarried child(ren) under age 18 whose parent, step-parent or legal guardian is a member of the program group. BEM 205

All earned and unearned income available to the Claimant's 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, SSI and UB. The amount counted may be more than the client actually receives because the gross amount is used prior to any deductions. BEM 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. BEM 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.

BEM 505

In the instant case, Claimant, her boyfriend and their son are mandatory group members and their household income is excess for both programs. With that said, I find that the Department established that it acted in accordance policy in denying Claimant's application for FAP and CDC 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 denying Claimant's application for FAP and CDC benefits.

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

/s/

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

Date Signed: October 5, 2009

Date Mailed: October 6, 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 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 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

cc:

