

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: 2010-16036  
Issue No: 5012  
Case No: [REDACTED]  
Load No: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date:  
August 11, 2010  
Barry 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 August 11, 2010. Claimant appeared and testified.

ISSUE

Did the Department of Human Services properly deny Claimant's application for State Emergency Relief (SER) home ownership services?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

(1) On November 12, 2009, Claimant submitted a State Emergency Relief (SER) application requesting funds to pay water/sewer and mortgage. Claimant listed no sources of employment, self-employment, or unearned income on the application.

(2) On November 16, 2009, Claimant's request for water/sewer was approved but his

request to pay the mortgage was denied. Claimant was sent notice of the determination.

- (3) On December 7, 2009, Claimant submitted a request for hearing.

### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The State Emergency Relief (SER) program is established by 2004 PA 344. The SER program is administered pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and by final administrative rules filed with the Secretary of State on October 28, 1993. MAC R 400.7001-400.7049. Department of Human Services (DHS or department) policies are found in the State Emergency Relief Manual (SER).

Department policy provides the following guidance for case workers. The Department's policies are available on the internet through the Department's website.

### **HOUSING AFFORDABILITY**

#### **DEPARTMENT POLICY**

Housing affordability is a condition of eligibility for State Emergency Relief (SER) and applies only to Relocation Services (ERM 303) and Home Ownership Services and Home Repairs (ERM 304). Housing affordability does not apply to other SER services.

#### **Requirements**

In this item, "total housing obligation" means the total amount the SER group must pay for rent, house payment, mobile home lot rent, property taxes and required insurance premiums. Renters can have a higher "total housing obligation" if heat, electricity and/or water/cooking gas are included.

Authorize SER for services only if the SER group has sufficient income to meet ongoing housing expenses. A SER group that cannot afford to pay their ongoing housing costs plus any utility obligations will not be able to retain their housing, even if SER is authorized.

Deny SER if the group does not have sufficient income to meet their total housing obligation. The total housing obligation cannot exceed 75% of the group's total net countable income. (ERM 207)

In this case Claimant reported \$0 income on the application. With no income Claimant could not meet 75% of any housing obligation. Claimant's request for home ownership services was properly denied.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides the Department of Human Services properly denied Claimant's application for State Emergency Relief (SER) home ownership services.

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

/s/

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

Date Signed: August 23, 2010

Date Mailed: August 24, 2010

**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.

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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.

GFH/alc

cc:

