

STATE OF MICHIGAN
STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS AND RULES

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

IN THE MATTER OF:

██████████

Claimant

Reg. No.: 2010-24191

Issue No.: 3003

Case No.: ██████████

Load No.: ██████████

Hearing Date:

March 29, 2010

Wayne County DHS

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Aaron McClintic

DECISION AND ORDER

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and MCL 400.37 upon the Claimant's request for a hearing. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on March 29, 2010. The Claimant appeared at the hearing with her Authorized Hearing Representative, ██████████ and both testified. ██████████ FIM and ██████████ appeared on behalf of the Department.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly determine Claimant's Food Assistance 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 FAP benefits.
- (2) Effective March 1, 2010 Claimant's FAP benefits were reduced from \$310 to \$292.

- (3) Claimant receives \$984 gross monthly unemployment income and \$383 monthly social security benefits for her son.
- (4) Claimant receives an excess shelter deduction of \$459.
- (5) The Department determined Claimant to be eligible for \$292 FAP benefits.
- (6) Claimant requested a hearing on February 19, 2009 contesting the reduction of her FAP benefits.

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 Bridges Administrative Manual (“BAM”), the Bridges Eligibility Manual (“BEM”), and the Program Reference Manual (“PRM”).

The federal regulations define household income to include all earned income. 7 CFR 273.9(b). All monthly income must be converted to a nonfluctuating monthly amount. Only 80% of earned income is counted in determining FAP benefits. BEM 550. Under 7 CFR 273.9, as amended, \$135.00 is deducted from the gross income of FAP recipients in determining FAP grants.

In the present case, Claimant has \$984 monthly gross unearned income from unemployment benefits and \$383 for social security benefits for her child. The monthly income of \$984 was calculated by multiplying the biweekly benefit by 2.15. ($458 \times 2.15 = 984$). The standard deduction of \$135 was subtracted from \$1367 resulting in adjusted income of \$1236.

Claimant has shelter expense of \$525 plus utilities, and does qualify for excess shelter deduction of \$459. Subtracting \$459 from \$1236 results with \$777. The Food Assistant Issuance Table shows \$292 in benefit for \$777 net income for a household of 3. RFT 260 This is the amount determined by the Department and it is correct.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, finds that the Department properly determined the Claimant's FAP benefits. Accordingly, the Department's determinations are AFFIRMED.

/s/  _____

Aaron McClintic
Administrative Law Judge
for Ismael Ahmed, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: April 8, 2010

Date Mailed: April 14, 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 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.

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