

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: 201026638

Issue No: 3002

Case No: [REDACTED]

Load No: [REDACTED]

Hearing Date:

May 11, 2010

Eaton 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 Lansing, Michigan on May 11, 2010.

ISSUE

Whether the Department properly computed the Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) eligibility?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. Claimant is a FAP recipient.
2. The Department completed FAP budget(s) to include an increase in unearned income (from SDA of \$269 to SSI of \$674 to RSDI of \$782) which resulted in a monthly FAP reduction from \$200.00/mo. to

\$122.00/mo. to \$64.00/mo. (\$74.00/mo - \$10.00 overissuance deduction)

(Exhibits 7-22)

3. On January 6, 2010, the Department mailed Claimant a Notice of Case Action which explained Claimant's monthly FAP allotment of \$64.00/mo. (Exhibits 4-6)
4. On March 3, 2010, the Department received the Claimant's hearing request. (Exhibit 2)
5. There was a BRIDGES issue with Claimant's MA coverage which may or may not be totally resolved. (Exhibits 23-30)

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).

For FAP purposes, all earned and unearned income available to the Claimant 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, based on the testimony and documentation offered at hearing, the Department used the correct income and expense figures in completing the FAP Budget. With that said, I find that the Department established that it acted in accordance with policy in computing Claimant's FAP eligibility.

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 computing Claimant's FAP eligibility.

Accordingly, the Department's FAP eligibility determination is AFFIRMED, it is SO ORDERED. The Department shall, however, ensure that the BRIDGES issue with

Claimant's Medical Assistance (MA) coverage have been resolved and shall investigate any issues Claimant brings to its attention regarding the BRIDGES issue with his MA coverage.

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

Date Signed: May 26, 2010

Date Mailed: May 27, 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.

SB/tg

cc:

