

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: 2010-3007
Issue No: 3002
Case No: [REDACTED]
Load No: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date:
November 12, 2009
Branch County DHS

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Ivona Rairigh

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 held on November 12, 2009. Claimant personally appeared and testified.

ISSUE

Did the department correctly compute the amount of Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits that the claimant was entitled to receive?

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 applied for FAP benefits on September 21, 2009 and was approved for such benefits on September 21, 2009.

2. Department determined that the claimant was eligible for prorated FAP benefits from the date of application to the end of September, 2009, and for ongoing monthly benefits of \$42 per month.

3. Claimant requested a hearing on October 9, 2009.

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).

When determining eligibility for FAP benefits, the household's total income must be evaluated. All earned and unearned income of each household member must be included unless specifically excluded. BEM 500. The FAP program provides a deduction from earned income of 20% and a deduction for the cost of child care when necessary to enable a FAP household member to work. A standard deduction from income is allowed for each household. Certain non-reimbursable medical expenses above \$35 a month 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, up to a maximum of \$459.00 for non-senior/disabled/veteran households. BEM 500 and 554; PRM 255.

In claimant's case, the Administrative Law Judge has reviewed the FAP budget and finds that the department properly computed the claimant's net income and also correctly budgeted his shelter expenses. Claimant's objection to department's determination is not that his employment income or shelter expenses as budgeted by the department are incorrect, but that he cannot survive on \$42 per month as his expenses exceed his income. The federal regulations at 7 CFR 273.10 provide standards for the amount of a household's FAP benefits. The department in compliance with the federal regulations has prepared issuance tables which are set forth at PRM 260. The issuance table provides that a household with household size and net income of the claimant is eligible for an FAP allotment of \$42. Federal regulations governing the allotment entitlement cannot be changed either by the department or this Administrative Law Judge.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that the department correctly computed the amount of FAP benefits the claimant was entitled to receive.

Accordingly, department's action is AFFIRMED, and it is SO ORDERED.

/s/ _____
Ivona Rairigh
Administrative Law Judge
for Ismael Ahmed, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: November 24, 2009

Date Mailed: December 11, 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.

IR [REDACTED]

cc: [REDACTED]