

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: 2010-40476  
Issue No: 2026  
Case No: [REDACTED]  
Load No: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date:  
July 28, 2010  
Calhoun County DHS

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Suzanne L. Keegstra

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 July 28, 2010. The claimant personally appeared and provided testimony.

ISSUE

1. Did the department properly determine the claimant should be on a Medical Assistance (MA) deductible program in June, 2010?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. The claimant's husband began receiving Unemployment Compensation Benefits (UCB) in May, 2010 in the amount of \$636 biweekly. (Department Exhibit 16 – 17)

2. The claimant receives RSDI in the amount of \$743 monthly. (Department Exhibit 18 – 20)

3. The claimant's two children each receive RSDI in the amount of \$78 monthly.

(Department Exhibit 21 – 26)

4. When these amounts were budgeted, the claimant had total unearned income of \$1915. (Department Exhibit 12)

5. When the formula for a MA deductible is applied, the result was a MA deductible of \$759. (Department Exhibit 13)

6. The claimant requested a hearing on June 18, 2010.

### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Medical Assistance (MA) program is established by Title XIX of the Social Security Act and is implemented by Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). The Department of Human Services (DHS or department) administers the MA program pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and MCL 400.105. Department policies are found in the Program Administrative Manual (PAM), the Program Eligibility Manual (PEM) and the Program Reference Manual (PRM).

Department policy states:

#### **RETIREMENT, SURVIVORS, AND DISABILITY INSURANCE (RSDI) (AKA SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS)**

##### **All Programs**

RSDI is available to retired and disabled persons, their dependents, and survivors of deceased workers.

Count the gross benefit amount as unearned income. BEM, Item 500, p. 29.

#### **UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS**

##### **All Programs**

Unemployment benefits include:

- . Unemployment Compensation Benefits (UCB) available through the Michigan Unemployment Agency and comparable agencies in other states, and
- . Supplemental Unemployment Benefits (SUB pay) from an employer or other source.

Count the gross amount as unearned income. BEM, Item 500, p. 34.

## **MA GROUP 2 INCOME ELIGIBILITY**

### **Deductible**

Deductible is a process which allows a client with excess income to become eligible for Group 2 MA if sufficient allowable medical expenses are incurred.

### **Active Deductible**

Open an MA case **without ongoing Group 2 MA coverage** on CIMS as long as:

- . The fiscal group has excess income, **and**
- . At least one fiscal group member meets all other Group 2 MA eligibility factors.

Such cases are called active deductible cases. Periods of MA coverage are added on CIMS each time the group meets it deductible.

### **Deductible Period**

Each calendar month is a separate spend-down period.

### **Deductible Amount**

The fiscal group's monthly excess income is called a deductible amount. BEM 545, pp. 8-9.

### **Meeting a Deductible**

Meeting a deductible means reporting and verifying allowable medical expenses (defined in "**EXHIBIT I**") that equal or exceed the deductible amount for the calendar month tested. BEM, Item 545, p. 9.

The group must report expenses by the last day of the third month following the month for which it wants MA coverage. BAM 130 explains verification and timeliness standards. BEM, Item 545. p. 9.

The goal of the Medicaid program is to ensure that essential health care services are made available to those who otherwise could not afford them. Medicaid is also known as Medical Assistance (MA). BEM 105.

The State of Michigan has set guidelines for income, which determine if an MA group is eligible. Income eligibility exists for the calendar month tested when:

- . There is no excess income, **or**
- . Allowable medical expenses equal or exceed the excess income (under the Deductible Guidelines). PEM 545.

Net income (countable income minus allowable income deductions) must be at or below a certain income limit for eligibility to exist. BEM 105. Income eligibility exists when net income does **not** exceed the Group 2 needs in BEM 544. BEM 166. The protected income level is a set allowance for non-medical need items such as shelter, food and incidental expenses. RFT 240 lists the Group 2 MA protected income levels based on shelter area and fiscal group size. BEM 544. An eligible Medical Assistance group (Group 2 MA) has income the same as or less than the “protected income level” as set forth in the policy contained in the Program Reference Table (PRT). An individual or MA group whose income is in excess of the monthly protected income level is ineligible to receive MA.

However, a MA group may become eligible for assistance under the deductible program. The deductible program is a process, which allows a client with excess income to be eligible for MA, if sufficient allowable medical expenses are incurred. Each calendar month is a separate deductible period. The fiscal group’s monthly excess income is called the deductible amount. Meeting a deductible means reporting and verifying allowable medical expenses that equal or exceed the deductible amount for the calendar month. The MA group must report expenses by

the last day of the third month following the month it wants medical coverage. PEM 545; 42 CFR 435.831.

In this case, the claimant's protected income level is \$500. The claimant receives RSDI in the amount of \$743 monthly. Her two children each receive RSDI in the amount of \$78 each monthly. The claimant's husband receives UCB in the amount of \$636 biweekly. These amounts result in a total net income of \$1259. Once the protected income level is included, this brings the claimant's monthly deductible to \$759.

It is noted that the claimant received some incorrect Notices of Case Action that had much higher deductibles calculated. The department testified that these notices were in error. The correct deductible amount is \$759.

It is also noted that the claimant requested a hearing on a Food Assistance Program (FAP) issue, but indicated at hearing that this was not an issue to be heard.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that the department properly determined the claimant should be on a Medical Assistance (MA) deductible program in June, 2010.

Accordingly, the department's actions are UPHELD. SO ORDERED.

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
Suzanne L. Keegstra  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Ismael Ahmed, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: August 26, 2010

Date Mailed: August 26, 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.

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.

SLK [REDACTED]

cc: [REDACTED]