

STATE OF MICHIGAN
STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS AND RULES
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No: 201048942

Issue No: 2001

Case No: [REDACTED]

Load No: [REDACTED]

Hearing Date:

September 15, 2010

Otsego County DHS

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Kevin Scully

HEARING DECISION

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge by authority of MCL 400.9 and MCL 400.37. Claimant's request for a hearing was received on June 23, 2010. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on Wednesday, September 15, 2010.

ISSUE

Whether the Department of Human Services (Department) properly determined the Claimant's Medical Assistance (MA) eligibility?

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 was an ongoing MA recipient under the Adult Medical Program (AMP).
2. The Claimant receives monthly earned income in the gross monthly amount of [REDACTED]. Department Exhibits 2 – 3.
3. On May 20, 2010, the Department completed an AMP budget, and determined that he was not eligible due to excess income. Department Exhibit 4.
4. The Department received the Claimant's request for a hearing on June 23, 2010, protesting the termination of his AMP benefits.

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 Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), the Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM), Reference Table Manual (RFT), and the Bridges Reference Manual (BRM).

The Adult Medical Program (AMP) is established by Title XXI of the Social Security Act; (1115)(a)(1) of the Social Security Act, and is administered by the Department of Human Services (DHS or department) pursuant to MCL 400.10, et seq. Department policies are contained in the Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), the Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) and the Bridges Reference Manual (BRM).

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 for duties that were performed for compensation or profit. Unearned income means all income that is not earned, including but not limited to funds received from the Family Independence Program (FIP), State Disability Assistance (SDA), Child Development and Care (CDC), Medicaid (MA), Social Security Benefits (RSDI/SSI), Veterans Administration (VA), Unemployment Compensation Benefits (UCB), Adult Medical Program (AMA), alimony, and child support payments. 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.

On May 20, 2010, the Claimant turned in a semi-annual review along with verification of his earned income. The Claimant receives monthly earned income in the gross monthly amount of [REDACTED]. This amount was determined from the two paycheck stubs submitted by the Claimant in the gross amounts of [REDACTED]. The Claimant's net income of [REDACTED] was determined by reducing his gross income by \$200 plus an additional 20% earned income deduction. The income limit for the AMP program is \$316. RFT 236. Therefore, the Claimant is not eligible for AMP benefits due to excess income.

The Claimant argued that Department's policy sets the income limit too low for the Adult Medical Program. The Claimant argued that the Department's policy discriminates against adults responsible to not have children they are not capable of caring for by making it harder for them to receive medical assistance.

However, the claimant's grievance centers on dissatisfaction with the department's current policy. The claimant's request is not within the scope of authority delegated to this Administrative Law Judge. Administrative Law Judges have no authority to make decisions on constitutional grounds, overrule statutes, overrule promulgated regulations, or make exceptions to the department policy set out in the program manuals. Furthermore, administrative adjudication is an exercise of executive power rather than judicial power, and restricts the granting of equitable remedies. Michigan Mutual Liability Co. v Baker, 295 Mich 237; 294 NW 168 (1940).

The Department has established that the Claimant is not eligible for AMP benefits due to excess income.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that the Department acted in accordance with policy in determining the Claimant's MA eligibility.

The Department's MA eligibility determination is AFFIRMED. It is SO ORDERED.

/s/
Kevin Scully
Administrative Law Judge
for Ismael Ahmed, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: September 30, 2010
Date Mailed: October 1, 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.

KS/vc
cc:

