

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: 2010-14427

Issue No: 3002

Case No:

Load No:

Hearing Date:

February 4, 2010

Midland 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 [REDACTED] on February 4, 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 added Joseph Clingan to Claimant's FAP case.

(3) On December 11, 2009, the Department mailed Claimant a Notice of Case Action which explained that the reduction in Claimant's monthly FAP allotment to [REDACTED]/mo. effective January 1, 2010 was due to a change in earned and unearned income.

(Exhibit A)

(4) On December 16, 2009, the Department received Claimant's hearing request.

(5) On December 23, 2009, the Department mailed Claimant a Notice of Case Action with a monthly FAP allotment of [REDACTED]/mo. effective January 1, 2010. (Exhibit B)

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, the Department produced 141 pages of exhibits at hearing, but no Notice of Case Action(s) or any budgets. At the undersigned's request, the Department produced another 30-40 pages of relevant documentation at and after the hearing. At the end of the day, the Department never produced the FAP budget to support the December 11, 2009 reduction in benefits to [REDACTED]/mo. for January 2010. However, it did produce the December 23, 2009 budget which resulted in a FAP allotment of [REDACTED]1/mo. effective January 2010. Claimant agreed with the income and expenses used by the Department in calculating their FAP eligibility for January 2010.

With the above said, based on the testimony and documentation offered at and after hearing, 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.

