

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS AND RULES

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS FOR THE  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

IN THE MATTER OF:

██████████

Claimant,

Reg No: 2010-1567

Issue No: 3002

Case No: ██████████

Load No: ██████████

Hearing Date:

November 4, 2009

Washtenaw 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 ██████████ on November 4, 2009.

ISSUE

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

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) Claimant received ██████████/mo. in FAP benefits from June 1, 2009 until July 31, 2009. (Exhibits 2,7)

(3) Claimant received [REDACTED] in FAP benefits from August 1, 2009 until September 30, 2009. (Exhibits 2,8)

(4) On September 18, 2009, the Department processed Claimant's Semi-Annual Contact Report based on Claimant's earned and unearned income and expenses which resulted in a reduction in Claimant's monthly FAP benefits from [REDACTED] (Exhibits 3-6, 9)

(5) On September 18, 2009, the Department sent Claimant a Notice of Case Action informing her that her FAP benefits had decreased to [REDACTED]/mo effective October 1, 2009. (Exhibit 10)

(6) On September 25, 2009, the Department received the Claimant's hearing request protesting the amount of her FAP allotment. (Hearing Request)

#### 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, it appears that the Department may have erred in calculating Claimant's FAP benefits in June and July 2009 and maybe even in August and September 2009, therefore, making it difficult for Claimant to understand the drastic reduction in her FAP benefits. The only issue before me, however, is whether the Department correctly computed the Claimant's monthly FAP allotment of [REDACTED] for October 1, 2009 forward. To that end, Claimant agreed that the Department used the correct income and expense figures in completing the September 18, 2009 FAP Budget.

With the above said, based on the testimony and documentation offered at hearing, I find that the Department established that it acted in accordance with policy in computing Claimant's FAP allotment.

