

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: 2010-20130
Issue No: 3002
Case No: [REDACTED]
Load No: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date:
March 3, 2010
Ingham County DHS

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Kevin Scully

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 hearing was held March 3, 2010.

ISSUE

Whether the Department properly computed the Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) 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) Claimant is a FAP recipient.
- (2) Claimant receives monthly unemployment compensation payments in the gross monthly amount of [REDACTED].

(3) Claimant receives monthly Retirement, Survivor's and Disability Insurance (RSDI) in the gross monthly amount of [REDACTED]

(4) On January 14, 2010, the Department completed a FAP budget, which resulted in a monthly FAP reduction from [REDACTED] in January to [REDACTED] effective February 1, 2010.

(5) On January 14, 2010, the Department mailed Claimant a Notice of Case Action which explained that Claimant's monthly FAP reduction was a result of a change in income.

(6) On January 22, 2010, the Department received the Claimant's hearing request, protesting the reduction in her FAP allotment.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Food Assistance Program (FAP) (formerly known as the Food Stamp 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 Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), the Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM), Reference Table Manual (RFT), 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 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.

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 this case, Claimant applied for FAP as a group of one person. The Claimant received four unemployment compensation payments of [REDACTED] which results in a standard monthly amount of [REDACTED] for January 2010. Claimant received monthly RSDI benefits of [REDACTED] resulting in a total monthly gross income of [REDACTED]. The monthly gross income limit for a claimant group size of one to receive FAP benefits is [REDACTED]. RFT 250. Because the Claimant's monthly gross income exceeds the limit, she is not eligible to receive FAP benefits. I find that the Department acted in accordance with policy when computing Claimant's FAP benefits.

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 computing Claimant's FAP benefits.

Accordingly, the Department's FAP determination is AFFIRMED, it is SO ORDERED.

/s/ _____
Kevin Scully
Administrative Law Judge
for Marianne Udow, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: March 17, 2010

Date Mailed: March 18, 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/vmc

cc:

