

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: 2010-21510
Issue No: 3002
Case No: ██████████
Load No: ██████████
Hearing Date:
March 18, 2010
Jackson 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 March 18, 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 was a FAP recipient.

(2) On or about January 7, 2010, the Department completed a new FAP budget to include unemployment income for both Claimant and his wife which resulted in a monthly FAP reduction from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] due to excess gross income. (Exhibits 1-11)

(3) On January 13, 2010, the Department received the Claimant's hearing request protesting the reduction in his monthly FAP allotment.

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, there were discrepancies in the budgets presented to the undersigned including the amount of unemployment income budgeted for Claimant and his wife and the gross income limit for a group of two. With that said, based on the testimony and documentation offered at hearing, I do not 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, does not find that the Department acted in accordance with policy in computing Claimant's FAP eligibility.

Accordingly, the Department's FAP eligibility determination is REVERSED, it is SO ORDERED. The Department shall:

- (1) Request verification of unemployment income for Claimant and Claimant's wife and run a new FAP budget to determine FAP eligibility.
- (2) Issue Claimant supplemental benefits he is entitled to, if any.

- (3) Notify Claimant in writing of the Department's revised determination.
- (4) Claimant retains the right to request a hearing if he would like to contest the Department's revised determination.

/S/
Steven M. Brown
Administrative Law Judge
for Ismael Ahmed, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: March 23, 2010

Date Mailed: March 24, 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.

SMB/db

cc:

