

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: 2010-35500

Issue No: 3003

Case No: [REDACTED]

Load No: [REDACTED]

Hearing Date:

June 10, 2010

Cass County DHS

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Gary F. Heisler

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 held on June 10, 2010. Claimant appeared and testified.

ISSUE

Did the Department of Human Services properly determine the amount of Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits?

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 was an ongoing recipient of Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits. Claimant's case was due for review in May 2010.

(2) On April 1, 2010, Claimant submitted the required documents and verifications

necessary to re-determine his eligibility. Claimant reported that he had canceled his homeowner's insurance and that expense was removed from his financial eligibility budget.

(3) On May 3, 2010, the Department case worker ran the financial eligibility budget and it showed that Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits would decrease to \$ [REDACTED] per month. Claimant was sent a Notice of Case Action (DHS-1605) informing him of the change.

(4) Claimant made a verbal request for hearing about his Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits.

### 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. Department policies are found in the Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), the Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) and the Program Reference Manual (PRM).

In this case Claimant does not dispute the dollar amounts in his the Food Assistance Program (FAP) financial eligibility budget. Claimant asserts he had to cancel his homeowner's insurance because the Department did not pay his property taxes when he applied for help with it. Claimant testified that he had to make a choice because if he did not pay the taxes he might lose his house. It was explained to Claimant more than once during the hearing that a hearing request on Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits does include the issue of whether or not the Department should have paid his property taxes from a State Emergency Relief (SER)

application. Claimant raised no other issue regarding his Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits.

When determining eligibility for Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits in accordance with Department policy, the total income of the household must be evaluated. All earned and unearned income of each household member must be included, unless specifically excluded. Bridges Eligibility Manual, Item 500. The Food Assistance Program (FAP) program provides a deduction from earned income and a deduction for the cost of child care when necessary to enable a Food Assistance Program (FAP) household member to work. A standard deduction from income is allowed for each household. The amount of the standard deduction depends on the number of members in the household. Certain non-reimbursable medical expenses may be deducted for senior/disabled/veteran group members.

Another deduction from income is provided if monthly shelter costs are in excess of 50% of the household's income, after all of the other deductions have been allowed. There is a maximum deduction for households that do not contain a member classified as a senior, disabled, or veteran. Bridges Eligibility Manual, Items 500 and 554; Program Reference Manual, Table 255; 7 CFR 273.2.

In this case, the Administrative Law Judge has reviewed the Food Assistance Program (FAP) budget and finds that the department properly computed the claimant's net income and expenses. The federal regulations at 7 CFR 273.10 provide standards for the amount of a household's benefits. The department in compliance with the federal regulations has prepared issuance tables which are set forth at Program Reference Manual, Table 260. The issuance table provides that a household with household size and net income of the claimant's is eligible for a Food Assistance Program (FAP) allotment of \$ [REDACTED]

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides the Department of Human Services properly determined the amount of Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits.

It is ORDERED that the actions of the Department of Human Services, in this matter, are UPHELD.

/s/

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Gary F. Heisler  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Ismael Ahmed, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: June 16, 2010

Date Mailed: June 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.

GFH/alc

cc:

[REDACTED]