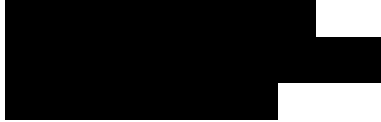


STATE OF MICHIGAN
STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS AND RULES
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLAIM OF:



Reg. No.: 201042792
Issue No.: 2026
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Load No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: October 14, 2010
Wayne County DHS (18)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Jonathan W. Owens

HEARING DECISION

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and MCL 400.37 upon the claimant's request for a hearing. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on October 14, 2010. The claimant appeared and testified.

ISSUE

Did the Department of Human Services (Department) properly determine Claimant's MA spend-down amount?

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the competent, material, and substantial evidence on the whole record, finds a material fact:

1. On October 1, 2009, the Department completed a review based upon a newly completed application. The Department determined the Claimant's spend-down amount increased based upon income.
2. On April 1, 2010 the Department sent a notice to the Claimant informing her of the change.
3. On April 4, 2010 Claimant filed a request for hearing.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Medical Assistance (MA) program is established by the Title XIX of the Social Security Act and is implemented by Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). The Department of Human Services (formerly known as the Family Independence

Agency) administers the MA program pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and MCL 400.105. Department policies are found in the Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), the Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) and the Program Reference Manual (PRM).

Michigan provides MA for eligible clients under two general classifications: Group 1 and Group 2 MA. Claimant falls under Group 2 MA classification which consists of client's whose eligibility results from the state designating types of individuals as "medically needy." MCL 400.106; MSA 16.490 (16), MCL 400.107; MSA 16.490(17), and PEM, Item 105.

In order to qualify for Group 2 MA, a medically needy client must have income which is equal to or less than the protected basic maintenance level. Department policy sets forth the method for determining the protected basic maintenance level by considering: (1) the protected income level; (2) the amount diverted to dependents; (3) health insurance premiums; and (4) remedial services if determining eligibility for clients in adult-care homes. The protected income level is a set amount for non-medical needs such as shelter, food and incidental expenses. In all other cases other than those involving long-term care, the appropriate protected income level must be taken from PRT 240. PEM Item 545, and 42 CFR 435.811 through 435.814. If the individual's income exceeds the protected income level, the excess amount must be used to pay medical expenses before Group 2 MA coverage can begin. This process is known as "spend-down." Policy requires the agency to count and budget all income received that is not specifically excluded. There are three main types of income: countable earned, countable unearned and excluded.

In the present case, the Claimant was concerned as to why her spend-down increased yet her household income in October was less. The Department provided a BRIDGES print screen showing the household income budgeted prior to October 1, 2009 and what was used starting October 1, 2009. This showed the Department had not previously included the husband's income in the household budget. Once the Department included this income this raised the spend down amount based upon the net income for the household increasing.

The Claimant's total countable net income is \$959. Claimant's protected income level is \$500. Therefore, Claimant would be left with a \$459 spend-down amount. The Department completed the budget correctly for the Claimant.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that the Department properly determined the Claimant's MA spend-down amount.

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Accordingly the Department's decision is hereby AFFIRMED.



Jonathan W. Owens
Administrative Law Judge
For Ismael Ahmed, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: 10/18/2010

Date Mailed: 10/18/2010

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 90 days of the filing of the original request.

The Claimant may appeal the Decision and Order to Circuit Court within 30 days of the mailing 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.

JWO/jlg

cc:

