

STATE OF MICHIGAN
MICHIGAN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING SYSTEM
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 2011-30324
Issue No.: 3002
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: May 18, 2011
DHS County: Wayne (82-55)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Jan Leventer

HEARING DECISION

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to Michigan Compiled Laws (MCL) 400.9 and 400.37 and Claimant [REDACTED] request for a hearing. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on May 18, 2011. Claimant appeared and testified at the hearing. [REDACTED] appeared and testified as a witness for Claimant. [REDACTED], appeared and testified on behalf of the Department of Human Services (DHS).

ISSUE

Whether DHS calculated Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits in accordance with DHS policies and procedures?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. In 2011, Claimant was a recipient of FAP benefits from DHS.
2. On April 8, 2011, DHS issued a Notice of Case Action telling Claimant her FAP benefits would be decreased effective June 1, 2011.
3. On April 13, 2011, Claimant filed a notice of hearing request with DHS.
4. At the Administrative Hearing on May 18, 2011, Claimant did not dispute the calculations of her FAP benefit amount; rather, she testified that her FAP benefits are not enough to feed her family.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

FAP was established by the U.S. Food Stamp Act of 1977 and is implemented by Federal regulations contained in Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations. DHS administers FAP pursuant to MCL 400.10 *et seq.* and Michigan Administrative Code Rules 400.3001-400.3015. DHS' policies are found in the Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), the Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) and the Reference Tables (RFT). These manuals are available online at www.michigan.gov/dhs-manuals.

BAM, BEM and RFT are the policies and procedures DHS officially created for its own use. While the DHS manuals are not laws created by the U.S. Congress or the Michigan Legislature, they constitute legal authority which DHS must follow. It is to the manuals that I look now in order to see what policy applies in this case. After setting forth what the applicable policy is, I will examine whether it was in fact followed in this case.

BEM 212, "Food Assistance Program Group Composition," BEM 503, "Income, Unearned," BEM 550, "FAP Income Budgeting," and BEM 554, "FAP Allowable Expenses and Expense Budgeting," provide the procedures for DHS' actions in this case.

I have reviewed all of the evidence and testimony in this case as a whole. I determine and conclude that DHS acted correctly in calculating Claimant's FAP benefits, and no error has occurred.

In conclusion, based on all of the findings of fact and conclusions of law, I find and conclude that DHS is AFFIRMED in this case. DHS need take no further action in this case.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, states that DHS is AFFIRMED. DHS need take no further action in this case.



Jan Leventer
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: May 19, 2011

2011-30324/JL

Date Mailed: May 19, 2011

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.

JL/pf

cc:

