

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 2011-7819
Issue No.: 3000
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: January 5, 2011
DHS County: Macomb (50-20)

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 M 400.37, and Claimant [REDACTED] request for a hearing. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on January 5, 2011. Claimant appeared and testified at the hearing. [REDACTED] Claimant's wife, also appeared and testified at the hearing. [REDACTED], appeared and testified on behalf of the Department of Human Services (DHS).

ISSUE

Whether DHS properly closed Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits case?

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 2010, Claimant and his family received FAP benefits.
2. In September 2010, DHS conducted a semi-annual redetermination and requested current information from Claimant.
3. On October 25, 2010, Claimant filed a notice of hearing request with DHS.
4. On October 31, 2010, Claimant's son's employment ended, causing a change of income for Claimant's family group.

5. On about December 1, 2010, Claimant's son started a new job, causing a change of income for Claimant's family group.
6. Effective November 1, 2010, Claimant's FAP benefits were reduced from \$526 to \$176 as a result of the September 2010 information provided by Claimant.
7. At the hearing, DHS agreed to recalculate two changes of income based on Claimant's son's lack of employment in November 2010 and on his December 2010 paystub.
8. After DHS agreed to recalculate Claimant's FAP benefits, Claimant indicated he no longer wished to proceed with the hearing.

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 the FAP program 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 Manual (RFT). These manuals are available online at www.michigan.gov/dhs-manuals.

Under BAM Item 600, clients have the right to contest any DHS decision affecting eligibility or benefit levels whenever they believe the decision is illegal. DHS provides an Administrative Hearing to review the decision and determine if it is appropriate. DHS policy includes procedures to meet the minimal requirements for a fair hearing. Efforts to clarify and resolve the client's concerns start when DHS receives a hearing request and continue through the day of the hearing.

In this case, the parties stipulated to a settlement agreement whereby DHS will recalculate Claimant's FAP benefits to reflect the two income changes that occurred with regard to Claimant's son's income. As the parties have reached an agreement, it will not be necessary for the Administrative Law Judge to decide the issue presented in this case.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, determines that the parties have reached a settlement agreement in this matter whereby DHS will recalculate Claimant's FAP benefits to reflect the two changes of income of Claimant's son. Based on this agreement, IT IS ORDERED that DHS shall recalculate Claimant's FAP benefits to reflect two income changes, in accordance with all DHS policies and procedures.



Jan Leventer
Administrative Law Judge
for Duane Berger, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: January 10, 2011

Date Mailed: January 13, 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:

