

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 2011-25402  
Issue No.: 4031  
Case No.: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: July 20, 2011  
DHS County: Wayne (82-43)

**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 Claimant's request for a hearing. After due notice, an in-person hearing was held in Highland Park, Michigan, on July 20, 2011. Claimant appeared and testified. The Department of Human Services (Department) was represented by [REDACTED].

**ISSUE**

Whether the Department properly determined that Claimant is not "disabled" for purposes of the State Disability Assistance (SDA) programs?

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

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

1. On January 24, 2011, Claimant applied for SDA.
2. On March 1, 2011, the Medical Review Team denied Claimant's request.
3. On March 17, 2011, Claimant submitted to the Department a request for hearing.
4. The State Hearing and Review Team (SHRT) denied Claimant's request.
5. Claimant is 56 years old.
6. Claimant completed education through the 11<sup>th</sup> grade.

7. Claimant has employment experience in landscaping, snow removal, truck driving and factory work.
8. Claimant's limitations have lasted for 12 months or more.
9. Claimant suffers from heart disease.
10. Claimant has significant limitations on physical activities involving sitting, standing, walking, bending, lifting, and stooping.
11. On July 14, 2011, the Social Security Administration approved Supplemental Security Income (SSI) effective February 2011.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

The SDA program, which provides financial assistance for disabled persons, is established by 2004 PA 344. The Department administers the SDA program pursuant to MCL 400.10 *et seq.* and MAC R 400.3151-400.3180. Department policies are found in the Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), the Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) and Bridges Reference Manual (RFT).

Because of the Social Security Administration determination, it is not necessary for the Administrative Law Judge to discuss the issue of disability, per BEM Item 260.

The Department is required to initiate a determination of Claimant's financial eligibility for the requested benefits, if not previously done, beginning February 1, 2011. As the Claimant's application is dated January 24, 2011, SDA benefits would not begin until February 2011.

### **DECISION AND ORDER**

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that Claimant is medically disabled under the SDA program as of February 2011.

Accordingly, the Department is hereby ORDERED to:

1. Process Claimant's SDA application dated January 24, 2011, and if otherwise eligible, open and supplement Claimant for any loss in benefits; and

2. Obtain a signed repay agreement prior to issuance of any SDA benefits.



**Jonathan W. Owens**  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Maura Corrigan, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: August 17, 2011

Date Mailed: August 17, 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 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/pf

cc:

