

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No: 2011-29958

Issue No: 3002

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Ingham County DHS

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Vicki L. Armstrong

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 received on April 21, 2011. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on May 19, 2011. Claimant personally appeared and provided testimony.

ISSUE

Whether the department properly determined 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 receiving FAP at all times pertinent to this hearing. (Hearing Summary).
2. Claimant's Senior/Disabled/Veteran (SDV) group size is 1.
3. Claimant received Social Security benefits (SSI) in the amount of \$674.00 a month. (Department Exhibits 1-2).
4. On March 10, 2011, the department mailed Claimant a Notice of Case Action, informing Claimant that his FAP benefits decreased to [REDACTED] a month based on an increase in his SSI. (Department Exhibits 7-8).
5. Claimant submitted a hearing request on April 21, 2011, protesting the decrease in his FAP benefits. (Request for a Hearing).

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 Bridges Reference Manual (BRM).

For FAP purposes, all earned and unearned income available to Claimant is countable. Earned income means income received from another person or organization or from self-employment for duties that were performed for compensation or profit. Unearned income means all income that is not earned, including but not limited to funds received from the Family Independence Program (FIP), State Disability Assistance (SDA), Child Development and Care (CDC), Medicaid (MA), Social Security Benefits (RSDI/SSI), Veterans Administration (VA), Unemployment Compensation Benefits (UCB), Adult Medical Program (AMP), alimony, and child support payments. The amount counted may be more than the client actually receives because the gross amount is used prior to any deductions. BEM 500.

The department determines a client's eligibility for program benefits based on the client's actual income and/or prospective income. Actual income is income that was already received. Prospective income is income not yet received but expected. Prospective budgeting is the best estimate of the client's future income. BEM 505.

Claimant was receiving monthly unearned income in the amount of [REDACTED] at the time relevant to this matter. The [REDACTED] included Claimant's monthly SSI unearned income of [REDACTED] and the State SSI Payment (SSP) of [REDACTED] a month. The standard deduction of [REDACTED]0 was subtracted from Claimant's countable income leaving an adjusted gross income of [REDACTED]. [REDACTED].

An excess shelter deduction is determined by adding Claimant's monthly housing expenses to the [REDACTED] standard heat and utility deduction under the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, and subtracting half of Claimant's adjusted gross income. Claimant does not pay rent and has only the [REDACTED] standard heat and utility deduction. Half of Claimant's adjusted gross income of [REDACTED] is [REDACTED]. This is subtracted from Claimant's housing and utilities for an excess shelter deduction of [REDACTED]. Since Claimant meets the senior/disabled/veteran criteria, the department would be required to deduct his excess shelter expense of [REDACTED] from his adjusted gross income of [REDACTED], which leaves him net income of [REDACTED]. BEM 556.

Federal regulations at 7 CF 273.10 provide standards for income and the amount of household benefits. In accordance with the federal regulations, the department has prepared income and issuance tables which can be found at RFT 260. This issuance

table provides that a household size of one with a net income of [REDACTED] is entitled to a [REDACTED] FAP allotment. Therefore, the department's FAP eligibility determination was correct based on Claimant's income.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that the department acted in accordance with policy in determining Claimant's FAP eligibility.

Accordingly, the department's FAP eligibility is AFFIRMED.

It is SO ORDERED.

_____/s/_____
Vicki L. Armstrong
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura D. Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: 5/23/11

Date Mailed: 5/23/11

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.

VLA/ds

[REDACTED]