

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 2011-41058  
Issue No.: 3002  
Case No.: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: August 24, 2011  
Oakland County DHS

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Susan Burke

**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, a telephone hearing was held on August 24, 2011 in Detroit, Michigan. Claimant's spouse, [REDACTED] appeared and testified. The Department of Human Services (Department) was represented by [REDACTED] Assistance Payments Supervisor.

**ISSUE**

Was the Department correct in its calculation of Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits?

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

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

1. Claimant was an ongoing FAP recipient in a household of two persons.
2. Claimant received \$1,058.00 in gross income per month which consisted of unearned income from group members.
3. Claimant had an obligation for shelter, utilities and heat.
4. The Department determined that Claimant was entitled to \$236.00 in FAP benefits per month.

5. On March 21, 2011, Claimant requested a hearing, contesting the amount of the FAP grant.

### **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 (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers the FAP program pursuant to CML 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 Program Reference Manual (PRM,) which includes the Reference Tables (RFT).

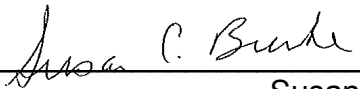
Under 7 CFR 273.9, as amended, \$141.00 is deducted from the gross income of FAP recipients in a household of two in determining FAP grants. Under 7 CFR 273.9 deductions for excess shelter are also made. BEM 554. Claimant did not claim to have incurred medical expenses, child support or dependent care expenses.

In the present case, according to the aforementioned policy on budgeting, Claimant had a net monthly income of \$378.00. This was obtained by subtracting the standard deduction of \$141.00 and the excess shelter amount of \$539.00 from the gross income of \$1,058.00. The amount of FAP benefits received for a group of two receiving net monthly income of \$378.00 is \$253.00. RFT 260. An additional \$17.00 was deducted from Claimant's benefits based on a previous overissuance that was not in dispute at this hearing. Claimant states that her family is having trouble making ends meet, and while I sympathize with Claimant, Department policy does not allow for changes in this instance. Claimant also states that the Department issued more benefits previously when the household income was the same. However, this hearing does not address previous benefits issuance.

Based on the above discussion, I find that the Department was correct in its calculation of Claimant's FAP benefits.

**DECISION AND ORDER**

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above findings of fact and conclusions of law decides that the Department was correct in its calculation of Claimant's FA P benefits, and it is therefore ORDERED that the Department's decision is AFFIRMED.

  
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Susan Burke  
Administrative Law Judge  
For Maura Corrigan, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: 8/29/11

Date Mailed: 8/29/11

**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 of the rehearing decision.

SB/sm

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