

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Kalamazoo County DHS

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: C. Adam Purnell

HEARING DECISION

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and MCL 400.37 upon the DHS client's (also referred to as "the claimant") request for a hearing received on July 29, 2011. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on September 15, 2011. Claimant personally appeared and provided testimony.

ISSUES

1. Whether the department properly determined Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits?
2. Whether the department properly denied Claimant's application for Child Development and Care (CDC) benefits due to excess income?

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 applied for FAP, MA and CDC benefits on July 5, 2011. (Hearing Summary).
2. Claimant's monthly income (after deductions) was [REDACTED] and Claimant's group size is 2 (two). (Department Exhibit 11).
3. On July 15, 2011, the department mailed Claimant a Notice of Case Action denying his CDC application due to excess income and approving his FAP allotment for [REDACTED] effective August 1, 2011. (Department Exhibits 9-12).

4. Claimant submitted a hearing request on July 29, 2011, challenging the FAP amount and the denial of CDC benefits. (Request for a Hearing).

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The regulations governing the hearing and appeal process for applicants and recipients of public assistance in Michigan are found in the Michigan Administrative Code, MAC R 400.901-400.951. An opportunity for a hearing shall be granted to an applicant who requests a hearing because his claim for assistance is denied. MAC R 400.903(1).

Clients have the right to contest a department decision affecting eligibility or benefit levels whenever it is believed that the decision is incorrect. BAM 600. The department will provide an administrative hearing to review the decision and determine the appropriateness. BAM 600.

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. The department's policies are found in the Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), the Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) and the Bridges Reference Manual (BRM).

The Child Development and Care (CDC) program is established by Titles IVA, IVE, and XX of the Social Security Act, the Child Care and Development Block Grant of 1990, and the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996. The program is implemented by Title 45 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 98 and 99. The Department of Human Services (DHS or Department) provides services to adults and children pursuant to MCL 400.14(1) and MAC R 400.5001-5015. Department policies are found in the Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), the Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM), Reference Table Manual (RFT), and the Bridges Reference Manual (BRM).

The goal of the Child Development and Care (CDC) program is to preserve the family unit and to promote its economic independence and self-sufficiency by promoting safe, affordable, accessible, quality child care for qualified Michigan families. BEM 703. The Department of Human Services (DHS) may provide a subsidy for child care services for qualifying families when the parent(s)/substitute parent(s) is unavailable to provide the child care because of employment, participation in an approved activity and/or because of a condition for which treatment is being received and care is provided by an eligible provider. BEM 703.

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), 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. All income is converted to a standard monthly amount. If the client is paid weekly, the department multiplies the average weekly amount by 4.3. If the client is paid every other week, the department multiplies the average bi-weekly amount by 2.15. BEM 505.

All income is converted to a standard monthly amount. BEM 505. If the client is paid weekly, the department multiplies the average weekly amount by 4.3. If the client is paid every other week, the department multiplies the average bi-weekly amount by 2.15. BEM 505.

In this case, Claimant does not dispute the department's income calculation, rather he disagrees with the department's FAP determination and closure of CDC due to excess income. Based on the reasons stated in the record, this Administrative Law Judge finds that, based on the material and substantial evidence presented during the hearing, the department properly determined Claimant's FAP benefits and properly denied CDC benefits based on excess 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 and CDC benefits.

The department's FAP and CDC determinations are AFFIRMED.

It is SO ORDERED.



C. Adam Purnell
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura D. Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: 9/20/11

Date Mailed: 9/20/11

2011-47943/CAP

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.

CAP/ds

