

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 201154743
Issue No.: 3016
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: October 20, 2011
County: Wayne DHS (18)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Christian Gardocki

HEARING DECISION

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and MCL 400.37 following Claimant's request for a hearing. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on October 20, 2011, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included Claimant. Participants on behalf of Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED], Manager, and [REDACTED], Specialist.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly deny Claimant's application close Claimant's case for:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Independence Program (FIP)? | <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Medical Assistance (AMP)? |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Food Assistance Program (FAP)? | <input type="checkbox"/> State Disability Assistance (SDA)? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Assistance (MA)? | <input type="checkbox"/> Child Development and Care (CDC)? |

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 applied for benefits received benefits for:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Independence Program (FIP). | <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Medical Assistance (AMP). |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Food Assistance Program (FAP). | <input type="checkbox"/> State Disability Assistance (SDA). |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Assistance (MA). | <input type="checkbox"/> Child Development and Care (CDC). |

2. On 7/29/11, the Department
 denied Claimant's application closed Claimant's case
due to a lack of group members after the lone household member was disqualified
due to student status.
3. On 9/24/11, the Department sent
 Claimant Claimant's Authorized Representative (AR)
notice of the denial. closure.
4. On 9/19/11, Claimant filed a hearing request, protesting the
 denial of the application. closure of the case.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Department policies are contained in the Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), the Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM), and the Reference Tables Manual (RFT).

The Family Independence Program (FIP) was established pursuant to the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, Public Law 104-193, 42 USC 601, *et seq.* The Department (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers FIP pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and 1999 AC, Rule 400.3101 through Rule 400.3131. FIP replaced the Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) program effective October 1, 1996.

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 (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers FAP pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and 1999 AC, Rule 400.3001 through Rule 400.3015.

The Medical Assistance (MA) program is established by the Title XIX of the Social Security Act and is implemented by Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). The Department of Human Services (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers the MA program pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and MCL 400.105.

The Adult Medical Program (AMP) is established by 42 USC 1315, and is administered by the Department pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*

The State Disability Assistance (SDA) program, which provides financial assistance for disabled persons, is established by 2004 PA 344. The Department of Human Services (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers the SDA program pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and 2000 AACS, Rule 400.3151 through Rule 400.3180.

□ 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 provides services to adults and children pursuant to MCL 400.14(1) and 1999 AC, Rule 400.5001 through Rule 400.5015.

A person enrolled in a post-secondary education program may be in student status. BEM 245 at 1. A person in student status must meet certain criteria in order to be eligible for assistance. *Id.*

A person is in student status if he/she is aged 18 through 49 years and enrolled half-time or more in either:

- a vocational, trade, business, or technical school that normally requires a high school diploma or an equivalency certificate; or
- a regular curriculum at a college or university that offers degree programs regardless of whether a diploma is required. *Id.* at 2-3.

As of 4/2011, the student status policy read as follows. In order for a person in student status to be eligible, they must meet one of the following criteria:

- Receiving FIP.
- Enrolled in an institution of higher education as a result of participation in:
 - A JTPA program.
 - A program under section 236 of the Trade Readjustment Act of 1974 (U. S. C. 2296).
 - Another State or local government employment and training program.
- Physically or mentally unfit for employment.
- Employed for at least 20 hours per week and paid for such employment.
- Self-employed for at least 20 hours per week and earning weekly income at least equivalent to the federal minimum wage multiplied by 20 hours.
- Participating in an on-the-job training program. A person is considered to be participating in an on-the-job training program only during the period of time the person is being trained by the employer.
- Participating in a state or federally-funded work study program (funded in full or in part under Title IV-C of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended) during the regular school year (i.e. work study).
- Providing more than half of the physical care of a group member under the age of six.
- Providing more than half of the physical care of a group member age six through eleven and the local office has determined adequate child care is not available to:
 - Enable the person to attend class and work at least 20 hours per week.
 - Participate in a state or federally-financed work study program during the regular school year.
- A single parent enrolled full-time in an institution of higher education who cares for a dependent under age 12. This includes a person who does not live with his

or her spouse, who has parental control over a child who does not live with his or her natural, adoptive or stepparent. *Id.* at 3-4.

The person remains in student status while attending classes regularly. *Id.* at 4. Student status continues during official school vacations and periods of extended illness. *Id.* Student status does not continue if the student is suspended or does not intend to register for the next school term (excluding summer term). *Id.*

Claimant applied for FAP benefits on 7/1/11. It was not disputed that Claimant wrote on her Assistance Application that she was a full-time student as of the date of her application. Thus, Claimant was in student status. However, Claimant made very reasonable arguments which may have justified removing her from student status.

First Claimant stated that by enrolling with Michigan Works, she was part of an employment training program; by being part of a government program, Claimant contended that she met an exception to the student status requirement. Participation in a government employment program is not an exception to student status. The above policy states that Claimant's school attendance must be a result of participation in the government employment training. In Claimant's circumstances, her school attendance was independent of her employment training. Thus, it cannot be considered an exception to student status.

Claimant also contended that DHS should have informed her of the basis for denial prior to the official denial. Claimant reasoned that if DHS had done so, she could have advised DHS that she fell out of student status after she dropped classes and became less than a half-time student. Claimant may be correct in her reasoning, but there is no DHS regulation requiring DHS to discuss a denial. If there is a change that affects benefit eligibility, it is the client's responsibility to report it rather than DHS' responsibility to presume the possibility.

Claimant made a similar argument concerning when Claimant received the denial of FAP benefits. For some unspecified reason, DHS was unable to send written notice of the denial to Claimant until 9/24/11, though the denial occurred on 7/29/11. Typically, the notice is sent on the date of denial. Claimant contends the delay in sending the written notice affected Claimant's reapplication date. It should be noted that Claimant began receiving FAP benefits effective 8/15/11 following the submission of a separate application.

Claimant is correct that she may have reapplied sooner than 8/15/11 had DHS informed her of the basis for denial, and that the written notice was mailed outside of the standard of promptness. However, the undersigned does not have the authority to issue a remedy solely based on equity (i.e. fairness). The proper remedy for a failure to timely send a written notice is for DHS to send a written notice. History cannot be rewritten to suppose what Claimant may have done had DHS acted differently. Though Claimant presented very reasonable arguments, it is found that the denial of Claimant's application for FAP benefits was proper.

Based upon the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and for the reasons stated on the record, the Administrative Law Judge concludes that the Department


properly denied Claimant's application improperly denied Claimant's application
 properly closed Claimant's case improperly closed Claimant's case

for: AMP FIP FAP MA SDA CDC.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and for the reasons stated on the record, finds that the Department
 did act properly. did not act properly.

Accordingly, the Department's AMP FIP FAP MA SDA CDC decision is AFFIRMED REVERSED for the reasons stated on the record.



Christian Gardocki
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: October 25, 2011

Date Mailed: October 25, 2011

NOTICE: Michigan Administrative Hearing System (MAHS) 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. MAHS 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. (60 days for FAP cases)

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.

Claimant may request a rehearing or reconsideration for the following reasons:

- A rehearing **MAY** be granted if there is newly discovered evidence that could affect the outcome of the original hearing decision.
- A reconsideration **MAY** be granted for any of the following reasons:
 - misapplication of manual policy or law in the hearing decision,
 - typographical errors, mathematical error, or other obvious errors in the hearing decision that effect the substantial rights of the claimant:
 - the failure of the ALJ to address other relevant issues in the hearing decision.

2011-54743/CG

Request must be submitted through the local DHS office or directly to MAHS by mail at
Michigan Administrative hearings
Reconsideration/Rehearing Request
P. O. Box 30639
Lansing, Michigan 48909-07322

CG/hw

cc:

