

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 2012-18317
Issue No.: 3002
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: January 11, 2012
County: Wayne County

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Susan C. Burke

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 January 11, 2012, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included Claimant. Participants on behalf of Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED] ES.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly calculate 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 received FAP benefits in the amount of \$37.00.
2. Claimant was in a group size of four.
3. Claimant is disabled.
4. Claimant receives unearned income in the amount of \$745.00.
5. Claimant's spouse receives earned income in the amount of \$1,972.00.
6. On December 6, 2011, Claimant requested a hearing.

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 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.

BEM 550 instructs that eighty percent of the earned income of a household be added to unearned income to determine gross income. Adjusted gross income in a household of four is determined by subtracting the standard amount of \$154.00 (RFT 255). Monthly net income for FAP purposes is then determined by subtracting allowable expenses, such as a shelter and medical deductions, if any. BEM 554.

In the present case, eighty percent of the income of Claimant's spouse was added to Claimant's unearned income to yield \$2,322.00. The standard amount of \$154.00 (RFT 255) and the allowable medical expense of \$65.00 were subtracted from that figure to yield \$2,103.00. Claimant's shelter expense was negative, given the formula of total monthly shelter expense of \$311.00 plus the \$553.00 standard for heat and utility (RFT 255) minus fifty percent of the adjusted gross income (\$1,051.00). Claimant's net monthly income of \$2,103.00 in a group size of four allows for \$37.00 per month in FAP benefits.

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 calculated Claimant's FAP benefits improperly calculated Claimant's FAP benefits.

It is also noted that Claimant raised an issue of FAP benefits closure in August of 2011. However, the notice of closure was sent to Claimant on July 14, 2011, and Claimant did not file her hearing request until December 6, 2011. Therefore Claimant's request for hearing on the issue of the August 2011 closure was not within the required ninety-day time period. See BAM 600, p.4.

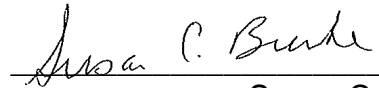
Claimant also raised the issue of Medicaid coverage for her children, but no negative action was taken on that matter and her children were fully covered as of the date of the hearing.

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 decision is AFFIRMED REVERSED for the reasons stated on the record.



Susan C. Burke
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: 1/20/12

Date Mailed: 1/20/12

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.

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

SCB/sm

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