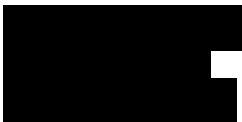


STATE OF MICHIGAN
MICHIGAN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING SYSTEM
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

IN THE MATTER OF:



Reg. No.: 201241786
Issue No.: 1000
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: July 19, 2012
County: Genesee County DHS #6

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Christopher S. Saunders

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 July 19, 2012, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included Claimant. Participants on behalf of Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED].

ISSUE

Did the Department properly close Claimant's case for Family Independence Program (FIP) 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 recipient of FIP benefits.
2. On March 12, 2012, the Department notified Claimant that Claimant's FIP case would close effective April 1, 2012, because Claimant exceeded the lifetime limit on the receipt of FIP assistance.
3. On March 23, 2012, Claimant filed a Request for Hearing, disputing the Department's action on the basis that the Department miscalculated the number of months Claimant had received FIP benefits.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

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 Mich Admin Code, R 400.3101 through R 400.3131. FIP replaced the Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) program effective October 1, 1996. Department policies are contained in the Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), the Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM), and the Reference Tables Manual (RFT).

FIP is not an entitlement. BEM 234. Time limits are essential to establishing the temporary nature of aid as well as communicating the FIP philosophy to support a family's movement to self-sufficiency. BEM 234. BEM 234 restricts the total cumulative months that an individual may receive FIP benefits to a lifetime limit of 48 months for state-funded FIP cases and 60 months for federally-funded FIP cases.

Additionally, the only allegation made pertaining to the claimant's FIP time limit that was addressed at the hearing was that the Claimant had exceeded his limit of 48 months for state-funded FIP cases. The Claimant testified that he thought the termination of his FIP benefits and consequently, the hearing, were in relation to an alleged noncompliance with the WF/JET program. The Claimant requested an adjournment of the hearing so that he could look through his records and properly prepare for the hearing. The Administrative Law Judge denied this request as the notice of case action sent to the Claimant on March 13, 2012 does state that the FIP benefits are being closed due to the Claimant reaching the 48 month state-funded time limit for FIP benefits. The Claimant did not present evidence or testimony to refute the specific months that the department alleged he received FIP benefits. The department provided evidence to show that the claimant had reached the state-funded time limit of 48 months.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, finds that the Department

did act properly did not act properly
when it closed Claimant's FIP case.

Accordingly, the Department's decision is

AFFIRMED
 REVERSED

for the reasons stated above.

/s/ _____
Christopher S. Saunders
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: July 26, 2012

Date Mailed: July 26, 2012

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.

201241786/CSS

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

CSS/cr

cc:

