

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

IN THE MATTER OF:



Reg. No.: 2012-4882
Issue No.: 1021
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: November 14, 2011
County: Kalamazoo

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 following Claimant's request for a hearing. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on November 14, 2011 from Lansing, Michigan. Claimant personally appeared and provided testimony. Participants on behalf of Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED] Family Independence Specialist.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly determine Claimant's eligibility 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 received benefits for Family Independence Program (FIP) at all relevant times.
2. Claimant received FIP benefits for 87 (eighty-seven) non-consecutive federally funded months. (Department Exhibits 3, 5-9).
3. On October 11, 2011, the Department closed Claimant's case because Claimant exceeded the 60 (sixty) month federal time limit maximum.
4. On October 11, 2011, the Department sent Claimant notice of the FIP case closure.
5. On October 14, 2011, Claimant filed a hearing request, protesting the closure of the case.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The client has the right to request a hearing for any action, failure to act or undue delay by the department. BAM 105. The department provides an administrative hearing to review the decision and determine its appropriateness. BAM 600.

The regulations that govern the hearing and appeal process for applicants and recipients of public assistance in Michigan are contained in the Michigan Administrative Code (Mich Admin Code) Rules 400.901 through 400.951. An opportunity for a hearing shall be granted to a recipient who is aggrieved by an agency action resulting in suspension, reduction, discontinuance, or termination of assistance. Mich Admin Code 400.903(1). 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 1997 AACRS R 400.3101-3131. FIP replaced the Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) program effective October 1, 1996. FIP is designed to support a family's movement to self-sufficiency and financial independence. BEM 245. FIP is not an entitlement, but is temporary in nature. BEM 245.

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) is the federal grant that funds the overwhelming majority of FIP assistance issued by the Department. BEM 245. The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA) established a five-year (60-month) life-time limit on assistance for adult-headed families. BEM 245. The begin date for the federal time limit counter is October 1, 1996. BEM 245.

On October 1, 2007, Michigan law reduced the cumulative total of FIP to 48 (forty-eight) months during an individual's lifetime. A family is not eligible for FIP assistance beyond 60 (sixty) consecutive or non-consecutive federally funded months. Federally funded countable months began to accrue for FIP on October 1, 1996. BEM 245. Any group that includes an individual who has received 60 (sixty) months or more of FIP is not eligible for the FIP program. BEM 245.

This Administrative Law Judge finds, based on the material and substantial evidence presented during the hearing, that the Department properly closed Claimant's FIP benefits because Claimant received FIP for more than 60 (sixty) months.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides that the Department properly closed Claimant's FIP benefits because Claimant has received federally funded FIP benefits for a period of 60 (sixty) months or more.

Accordingly, the department's action is AFFIRMED.

It is SO ORDERED.

/s/

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

Date Signed: 11/15/11

Date Mailed: 11/15/11

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.

The Claimant may appeal the Decision and Order to Circuit Court within 30 days of the mailing 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

CAP/ds

