

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**



Reg. No.: 2012-6137  
Issue No.: 1005; 3002  
Case No.: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: December 5, 2011  
County: Wayne (49)

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Alice C. Elkin

**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 December 5, 2011, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included Claimant. Participants on behalf of Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED], JET worker.

**ISSUE**

Whether the Department properly closed Claimant's case for benefits under the Family Independence Program (FIP) based on Claimant's failure to participate in employment-related activities.

Whether the Department properly reduced Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits based on Claimant's failure to participate in employment-related activities.

**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 checked="" 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 October 1, 2011, the Department  denied Claimant's application  closed Claimant's FIP case due to noncooperation with work-related activities.
3. On October 1, 2011, the Department excluded Claimant as a member of her FAP group based on her FIP sanction and reduced her group's FAP benefits.
4. On September 19, 2011, the Department sent  Claimant  Claimant's Authorized Representative (AR) notice of the closure of the FIP case and reduction of the FAP benefits.
5. On October 14, 2011, Claimant filed a hearing request, protesting the Department's decision.

### 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, R 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, R 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 AACRS, R 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, R 400.5001 through Rule 400.5015.

Additionally, the Department closed Claimant's FIP case and reduced her FIP benefits based on noncooperation with work-related activities. BEM 233A; BEM 233B. At the hearing, the Department conceded that it improperly closed Claimant's FIP case and sanctioned her FAP case, testifying that there was no evidence that Claimant had failed to cooperate with work-related activities. The Department added, however, that, despite the fact that Claimant's FIP case closed effective October 1, 2011, she had received the October 2011 FIP supplement. While the Department noted that Claimant's FIP case, if reinstated, was subject to closure for exceeding the FIP time limit for federally-funded FIP benefits, BEM 234, the Department acknowledged that the Notice of Case Action closing Claimant's FIP case was based on Claimant's failure to comply with work-related activities and not on the time limit issue. Because the Department conceded that Claimant's FIP case was improperly closed and her FAP benefits were improperly reduced based on an erroneous finding that she had failed to cooperate with work-related activities, the Department's decision is reversed.

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 improperly closed Claimant's FIP case and reduced Claimant's FAP benefits

### **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.

THE DEPARTMENT IS ORDERED TO DO THE FOLLOWING WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE DATE OF MAILING OF THIS DECISION AND ORDER:

1. Remove the negative case action closing Claimant's FIP case and reducing Claimant's FAP benefits effective October 1, 2011;
2. Remove the sanction on Claimant's FIP case based on the improper finding of noncompliance;

3. Issue supplements for any FIP benefits Claimant was entitled to receive but did not from October 1, 2011, ongoing in accordance with Department policy;
4. Recalculate Claimant's FAP budget in accordance with Department policy to include Claimant as a FAP group member for October 1, 2011 ongoing; and
5. Issue supplements for any FAP benefits Claimant was entitled to receive but did not from October 1, 2011 ongoing.



**Alice C. Elkin**  
Administrative Law Judge  
For Maura Corrigan, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: December 14, 2011

Date Mailed: December 14, 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.

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

ACE/ctl

cc: [REDACTED]  
Wayne County DHS (49)/1843  
[REDACTED]



A. Elkin  
File