

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No: 2012-66616
Issue No: 3002

[REDACTED]

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Suzanne L. Morris

HEARING DECISION

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and MCL 400.37 upon the claimant's request for a hearing received on [REDACTED]. After due notice, a three-way telephone hearing was held on [REDACTED]. The claimant personally appeared and provided testimony.

ISSUES

Whether the department properly determined Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) allotment?

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the competent, material and substantial evidence on the whole record, finds as material fact:

1. Claimant was receiving FAP at all times relevant to this hearing.
2. Claimant's FAP benefit was reduced from [REDACTED] sometime in [REDACTED], [REDACTED].
3. Claimant submitted a hearing request to dispute the reduction in benefits on [REDACTED].

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

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).

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 of Human Services (DHS or department) administers the FAP program pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and MAC R 400.3001-3015. Department policies are found in the Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), the Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) and the Program Reference Manual (BRM).

For each hearing not resolved at a prehearing conference, the department is required to complete a Hearing Summary (DHS-3050). BAM 600. In the hearing summary, all case identifiers and notations on case status must be complete; see RFF 3050. The DHS-3050 narrative must include all of the following:

- Clear statement of the case action, including all programs involved in the case action.
- Facts which led to the action.
- Policy which supported the action.
- Correct address of the AHR or, if none, the client.
- Description of the documents the local office intends to offer as exhibits at the hearing. BAM 600.

In this case, the claimant identified the issue as the reduction of her food assistance benefits. While the Hearing Summary stated that no negative action had taken place, the claimant's FAP benefits were reduced in [REDACTED]. No information and/or documentation was provided to this Administrative Law Judge to determine the appropriateness of these actions.

Accordingly, this Administrative Law Judge finds that the department has failed to carry its burden of proof and did not provide information necessary to enable this ALJ to determine whether the department followed policy as required under BAM 600. The department must re-budget the claimant's FAP case as they have failed to show the actions were in accordance with department policy.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, is unable to decide whether the department acted in accordance with policy in determining Claimant's FAP amount.

Therefore, the department's determinations are **REVERSED** and the department is hereby **ORDERED** to re-determine Claimant's FAP benefit amount back to [REDACTED]. The department shall also issue any retroactive benefits that Claimant is entitled to receive.

/s/ _____
Suzanne L. Morris
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura D. Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: [REDACTED]

Date Mailed: [REDACTED]

NOTICE: Administrative Hearings 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. Administrative Hearings will not order a rehearing or reconsideration on the Department's motion where the final decision cannot be implemented within 60 days of the filing of the original request.

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.

SLM/jk

cc:

[REDACTED]

MAHS