

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 20126790
Issue No.: 3000
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: November 30, 2011
County: Oakland County DHS (02)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Andrea J. Bradley

SETTLEMENT ORDER

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 30, 2011, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included the Claimant, [REDACTED], and [REDACTED], the Claimant's authorized hearing representative (AHR). Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included Trinetta Jones, Assistance Payment Supervisor.

ISSUE

Whether the Department properly:

- denied Claimant's application for benefits
- closed Claimant's case for benefits
- reduced Claimant's benefits

for:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Independence Program (FIP)? | <input type="checkbox"/> State Disability Assistance (SDA)? |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Food Assistance Program (FAP)? | <input type="checkbox"/> Child Development and Care (CDC)? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Assistance (MA)? | <input type="checkbox"/> State Emergency Services (SER)? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Medical Assistance (AMP)? | |

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. On September 20, 2011, the Department:

- denied Claimant's application for benefits
- closed Claimant's case for benefits
- reduced Claimant's benefits

under the following program(s):

- FIP FAP MA AMP SDA CDC SER.

2. On September 8, 2011, the Department sent notice to Claimant (or Claimant's Authorized Hearing Representative) of the:

- denial
- closure
- reduction.

3. On October 24, 2011, Claimant filed a request for hearing concerning the Department's action.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Department policies are found in the Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), the Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM), the Reference Tables Manual (RFT), and the State Emergency Relief Manual (ERM).

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, Rule 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, Rule 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 AACS, Rule 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, Rule 400.5001 through Rule 400.5015.

The State Emergency Relief (SER) program is established by 2004 PA 344. The SER program is administered pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and by 1999 AC, Rule 400.7001 through Rule 400.7049. Department policies are found in the State Emergency Relief Manual (ERM).

The law provides that disposition may be made of a contested case by stipulation or agreed settlement. MCL 24.278(2).

Additionally, the Department policy defines fluctuating income as Income received on a regular schedule but that varies from check to check, such as a waitress' income whose hours vary each week. BEM 505. With respect to budgeting fluctuating income, the Department policy requires that the Department use income from the past 60 or 90 days for fluctuating or irregular income, if the past 30 days is not a good indicator of future income, and the fluctuations of income during the past 60 or 90 days appear to accurately reflect the income that is expected to be received in the benefit month. BEM 505. The Department system will compute the average monthly income (and convert weekly and every other week amounts) based on the amounts and the number of months entered. BEM 505.

In the present case, Claimant requested a hearing to dispute the Department's action. Soon after commencement of the hearing, the parties testified that they had reached a settlement concerning the disputed action. Consequently, the Department agreed to do the following: the Department will recalculate the Claimant's FAP benefits specifically allowing for budgeting in line with the Department policy on fluctuating income as stated above.


As a result of this settlement, Claimant no longer wishes to proceed with the hearing. As such, it is unnecessary for this Administrative Law Judge to render a decision regarding the facts and issues in this case.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge concludes that the Department and Claimant have come to a settlement regarding Claimant's request for a hearing.

THE DEPARTMENT IS ORDERED TO DO THE FOLLOWING:

1. The Department shall abide by the terms of the settlement agreement as set forth above in accordance with Department policy.
2. The Department shall supplement the Claimant for any lost FAP benefits she was eligible and otherwise qualified to receive from September 20, 2011 and on-going based on the recalculated FAP budget in accordance with Department policy.


Andrea J. Bradley
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: 12/06/11

Date Mailed: 12/07/11

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. (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.

AJB / dj

cc:

[REDACTED]