

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 2012-72486
Issue No.: 3002
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: October 29, 2012
County: Oakland (03)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Jan Leventer

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 October 29, 2012, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included Claimant and his Authorized Representative, [REDACTED]. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED], Eligibility Specialist and [REDACTED], Family Independence Manager.

ISSUE

Due to excess income, did the Department properly ☐ deny the Claimant's application ☐ close Claimant's case ☒ reduce Claimant's benefits for:

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Family Independence Program (FIP)? | ☐ Adult Medical Assistance (AMP)? |
| ☒ Food Assistance Program (FAP)? | ☐ State Disability Assistance (SDA)? |
| ☐ Medical Assistance (MA)? | ☐ Child Development and Care (CDC)? |

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 for: ☒ received benefits for:

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Family Independence Program (FIP). | ☐ Adult Medical Assistance (AMP). |
| ☒ Food Assistance Program (FAP). | ☐ State Disability Assistance (SDA). |
| ☐ Medical Assistance (MA). | ☐ Child Development and Care (CDC). |

2. On August 28, 2012, the Department ☐ denied Claimant's application
☐ closed Claimant's case ☒ reduced Claimant's benefits
due to excess income.
3. On August 8, 2012, the Department sent
☒ Claimant ☐ Claimant's Authorized Representative (AR)
notice of the ☐ denial. ☐ closure. ☒ reduction.
4. On August 13, 2012, Claimant or Claimant's AHR filed a hearing request, protesting
the
☐ denial of the application. ☐ closure of the case. ☒ reduction of benefits.

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 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.

Additionally, in this case the Claimant is disputing the reduction of his FAP benefits from \$76 to \$16 per month effective August 28, 2012. At the hearing the Claimant agreed that he received \$256 per week Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits. However, he could not verify his earned income from the Department of Community Health. The lack of proof of income makes it impossible to determine what, if any error occurred through the actions of the Department.

Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) 550, "FAP Income Budgeting," requires the Department to base FAP benefit levels on the customer's income. Without accurate income information the Department is limited to whatever limited information was provided. Department of Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) 505 (2010).

In this case the only information available is the UI information and the earned income amount of \$436.88 per month. At the hearing the Claimant did not provide further information. Accordingly it is found and determined that the Department acted correctly in this case in reducing Claimant's FAP benefits based on his income.

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, due to excess income, the Department ☒ properly ☐ improperly

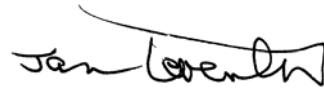
- ☐ denied Claimant's application
- ☒ reduced Claimant's benefits
- ☐ closed Claimant's case

for: ☐ AMP ☐ FIP ☒ FAP ☐ MA ☐ SDA ☐ CDC.

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.



Jan Leventer
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: October 30, 2012

Date Mailed: October 31, 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.

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

JL/tm

cc:

