

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

IN THE MATTER OF:



Reg No. 2012-63024
Issue No. 4031
Case No. [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: October 4, 2012
Cheboygan County DHS

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Vicki L. Armstrong

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. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on October 4, 2012. Claimant personally appeared and provided testimony.

During the hearing, Claimant waived the time period for the issuance of this decision in order to allow for the submission of additional medical evidence. The new evidence was forwarded to the State Hearing Review Team (SHRT) for consideration. On January 25, 2015, the SHRT found Claimant was disabled.

ISSUE

Did the department properly determine Claimant's disability status for Medicaid State Disability Assistance (SDA) eligibility purposes?

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 April 26, 2012, Claimant applied for SDA.
2. On June 22, 2012, the department's State Hearing Review Team (SHRT) issued a prehearing denial of Claimant's application due to lack of duration.
3. Claimant promptly requested a hearing, at which, the presiding Administrative Law Judge granted Claimant's request for a record extension to submit updated examination and treatment documents.

4. These documents were submitted to SHRT for a post-hearing review.
5. On January 25, 2013, SHRT reversed its earlier denial of Claimant's disputed SDA application indicating that based on Claimant's vocational profile (55 years old, a high school education and a history of medium exertional, skilled employment), SDA is approved using Vocational Rule 202.04 as a guide.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The State Disability Assistance (SDA) program which provides financial assistance for disabled persons is established by 2004 PA 344. The Department of Human Services (DHS or department) administers the SDA program pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and Mich Admin Code, Rules 400.3151-400.3180. Department policies are found in the Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), the Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) and the Reference Tables Manual (RFT).

Current legislative amendments to the Act delineate eligibility criteria as implemented by department policy set forth in program manuals. 2004 PA 344, Sec. 604, establishes the State Disability Assistance program. It reads in part:

Sec. 604 (1). The department shall operate a state disability assistance program. Except as provided in subsection (3), persons eligible for this program shall include needy citizens of the United States or aliens exempt from the Supplemental Security Income citizenship requirement who are at least 18 years of age or emancipated minors meeting one or more of the following requirements:

(b) A person with a physical or mental impairment which meets federal SSI disability standards, except that the minimum duration of the disability shall be 90 days. Substance abuse alone is not defined as a basis for eligibility.

Specifically, this Act provides minimal cash assistance to individuals with some type of severe, temporary disability which prevents him or her from engaging in substantial gainful work activity for at least ninety (90) days.

In the present case, SHRT reversed its earlier finding of lack of disability based on additional medical evidence reviewed for the first time after the hearing. This new medical evidence establishes that Claimant is currently disabled, and has been disabled at all times relevant to his April 26, 2012, SDA application.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, decides the department, through SHRT, properly determined Claimant's disability status upon consideration of additional medical evidence reviewed for the first time after the hearing.

Accordingly, **SHRT's** decision is **AFFIRMED** and Claimant's disputed SDA application shall be processed with benefits awarded retroactive to April, 2012, as long as Claimant meets all of the other financial and non-financial requirements necessary to receive them. Additionally, the local office shall initiate an MA review by February, 2014, to determine Claimant's eligibility for continued SDA.

It is **SO ORDERED**.

/s/
Vicki L. Armstrong
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura D. Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: January 29, 2013

Date Mailed: January 29, 2013

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 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 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,

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- 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

VLA/las

cc:

