

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 201313045
Issue No.: 3002
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: January 7, 2013
County: Wayne (19)

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 January 7, 2013, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included Claimant and [REDACTED], Claimant's daughter and Authorized Hearing Representative (AHR). Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED], Eligibility Specialist, and Raymond Cooper, Assistance Payment Supervisor.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly calculate Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits for December 1, 2012, ongoing?

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 was an ongoing recipient of FAP benefits.
2. In connection with a November 2012 FAP redetermination, the Department recalculated Claimant's FAP budget.
3. On November 5, 2012, the Department sent Claimant a Notice of Case Action advising her that her monthly FAP benefits would be reduced to \$86 effective December 1, 2012.

4. On November 26, 2012, Claimant filed a request for hearing, disputing the Department's calculation of her FAP benefits.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Department policies are contained in the Department of Human Services Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), Department of Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM), and Department of Human Services 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 Mich Admin Code, R 400.3101 through R 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 Mich Admin Code, R 400.3001 through R 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 Mich Admin Code, R 400.3151 through R 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 Mich Admin Code, R 400.5001 through R 400.5015.

Additionally, the November 5, 2012, Notice of Case Action sent to Claimant notified her that her monthly FAP benefits would be reduced to \$86 beginning December 1, 2012.

At the hearing, the Department produced a FAP budget showing the calculation of Claimant's FAP allotment for December 1, 2012, ongoing. The budget showed that Claimant had \$1317 in monthly unearned RSDI income, which Claimant confirmed was accurate. Claimant also verified that she was the sole member of her FAP group. The budget indicated that Claimant received a \$148 standard deduction for her FAP group size of one, consistent with Department policy. BEM 556 (July 1, 2011), p 3; RFT 255 (October 1, 2012), p 1. As a Senior/Disabled/Veteran (SDV) member of her FAP group, Claimant was also eligible for a deduction in her FAP budget for verified medical expenses incurred in excess of \$35. BEM 554 (October 1, 2012), pp 1, 6-9. The budget shows that Claimant received a medical expense deduction of \$304, which the Department testified included Claimant's Part B Medicare premium payment. Although Claimant alleged that there were additional medical expenses submitted to the Department, Claimant was unable to establish that expenses in excess of \$339 were submitted to the Department with her redetermination. Therefore, the Department's use of \$304 for the medical expense deduction is considered in the review of Claimant's FAP budget.

The excess shelter deduction of \$487 shown on the budget is consistent with the Department's testimony that it considered Claimant's monthly housing expenses of \$344, which Claimant verified, and the standard monthly heat and utility deduction of \$575 available to all FAP recipients. BEM 554 (January 1, 2012), pp 10-11; BEM 556, p 4; RFT 255, p 1. Based on the foregoing figures and information, the Department properly calculated Claimant's net income of \$378 and acted in accordance with Department policy when it concluded that Claimant was eligible for monthly FAP benefits of \$86. BEM 556 (October 1, 2011); RFT 260 (October 1, 2011), p 4.


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 when calculating Claimant's FAP budget.

did not act properly when .

Accordingly, the Department's decision is AFFIRMED REVERSED for the reasons stated on the record and above.


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

Date Signed: January 14, 2013

Date Mailed: January 14, 2013

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/hw

cc:

