

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No: 2013-33647
Issue No: 3015
Case No: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: April 4, 2013
Macomb-20 County DHS

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Corey A. Arendt

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 April 4, 2013 from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED].

ISSUE

Did the Department properly remove two members from the FAP group and reduce the Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) allotment?

FINDINGS OF FACT

I find as material fact, based on the competent, material, and substantial evidence on the whole record:

1. As of January 1, 2013 Claimant received FAP benefits.
2. As of March 1, 2013, two of the FAP group's members attended school part-time or more and were not employed or cared for any minor children in the group.
3. On February 28, 2013, the Department sent the Claimant a notice of case action. The notice indicated the Department was removing the two students from the FAP group and reducing the FAP allotment beginning March 1, 2013.
4. On March 8, 2013, the Claimant requested a hearing.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The regulations governing the hearing and appeal process for applicants and recipients of public assistance in Michigan are found in the Michigan Administrative Code, MAC R

400.901-400.951. An opportunity for a hearing shall be granted to an applicant who requests a hearing because his claim for assistance is denied. (MAC R 400.903(1)).

Clients have the right to contest a Department decision affecting eligibility or benefit levels whenever it is believed that the decision is incorrect. The Department will provide an administrative hearing to review the decision and determine the appropriateness of that decision. (BAM 600).

The FAP (formerly known as the Food Stamp (FS) program) was 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 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 Bridges Reference Manual (BRM).

Effective April 1, 2011, clients in student status are no longer eligible to receive FAP benefits based solely on an approved education plan. BEM 245. A person is in student status if the person is 18 through 49 years old and enrolled half-time or more in: (i) a vocational, trade, business, or technical school that normally requires a high school diploma or an equivalency certificate; or (ii) a regular curriculum at a college or university that offers degree programs regardless of whether a diploma is required. (BEM 245).

In this case, it was undisputed that the two removed members did not meet one of the student status exceptions. Therefore, in accordance with BEM 212, the two members were properly removed from the group.

However, the Department failed to provide testimony or exhibits to show the calculations made in determining the FAP allotment for the remaining two group members. Therefore, I was unable to determine whether the Department acted in accordance with the applicable laws and policies in determining the new FAP allotment beginning March 1, 2013.

Based upon the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and for the reasons stated on the record, I conclude the Department improperly determined the Claimant's FAP allotment beginning March 1, 2013.

DECISION AND ORDER

I find based upon the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and for the reasons stated on the record, the Department did not act properly.

Accordingly, the Department's FAP decision is **REVERSED** for the reasons stated on the record.

THE DEPARTMENT IS ORDERED TO DO THE FOLLOWING WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE DATE OF MAILING OF THIS DECISION AND ORDER:

1. Initiate a redetermination as to the Claimant's eligibility for FAP benefits beginning March 1, 2013 and issue retroactive benefits if otherwise qualified and eligible.



Corey A. Arendt
Administrative Law Judge
For Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: April 8, 2013

Date Mailed: April 8, 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

CAA/las

cc:

