

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**



Reg. No.: 2013-39929  
Issue No.: 1080  
Case No.:   
Hearing Date: May 6, 2013  
County: Wayne (82-17)

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Michael J. Bennane

**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 received by the Department of Human Services (Department) on April 8, 2013. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on May 6, 2013, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of the Claimant included Claimant. Participants on behalf of the Department included

**ISSUE**

Whether the Department properly determined that Claimant has exceeded the 60-month federal lifetime limit on Family Independence Program (FIP) benefits and was not eligible for an exception.

**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 FIP benefits.
2. On April 4, 2013, the Department notified Claimant that her FIP case would close effective May 1, 2013, because she had exceeded the 60-month federal lifetime limit on receipt of FIP assistance as of September 1, 2011.
3. On April 10, 2013, the Department received the Claimant's Request for Hearing, disputing the Department's action on the basis that Claimant had exceeded the federal lifetime limit to receive FIP benefits.

## **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

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 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. 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 FIP benefit program is not an entitlement. BEM 234 (January 1, 2013), p. 1. Under the federal FIP time limit, individuals are not eligible for continued FIP benefits once they receive a cumulative total of 60 months of FIP benefits, unless the individual was approved for FIP benefits as of January 9, 2013, **and** was exempt from participation in the Partnership.Accountability.Training.Hope (PATH) program for domestic violence, establishing incapacity, incapacitated more than 90 days, aged 65 or older, or caring for a spouse or child with disabilities. BEM 234 (January 1, 2013), p. 1; MCL 400.57a (4); Bridges Federal Time Limit Interim Bulletin (BPB) 2013-006 (March 1, 2013), p. 1. The federal limit count begins October 1996. BEM 234, p. 1.

In this case, the Department placed into evidence the months that Claimant received federally-funded FIP benefits. These months totaled 105. Subsequently, Claimant received state-funded FIP benefits. On January 9, 2013, Claimant was the care provider for her disabled spouse.

Department policy states, in pertinent part:

### **Federal Time Limit Exception**

Michigan will provide an exception to the federal 60 month time limit eligibility criteria and state fund the FIP eligibility determination group (EDG) for individuals that met the following criteria on Jan. 9, 2013:

- An approved/active ongoing FIP EDD **and**
- Who was exempt from participation in the Partnership.Accountability.Training.Hope. (PATH) program for:
  - Domestic violence.
  - Age 65 or older
  - Establishing incapacity
  - Incapacitated more than 90 days.
  - Care of a spouse with disabilities.
  - Care of a child with disabilities.

BEM 234 (January 1, 2013), p. 4.

In the instant case, Claimant was receiving FIP benefits on January 9, 2013; therefore, the above exemption applies.

Thus, the Department  did  did not act in accordance with Department policy when it closed Claimant's FIP case on October 16, 2012, for reaching the 60-month federal time limit.

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 the Department

properly closed Claimant's FIP case  improperly closed Claimant's FIP case

**DECISION AND ORDER**

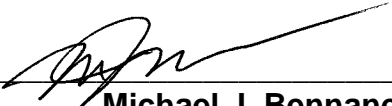
The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law and for the reasons stated on the record, decides that the Department

did act properly.  
 did not act properly.

Accordingly, the Department's FIP eligibility determination is  
 AFFIRMED.  REVERSED.

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

1. Return to the date of closure, May 1, 2013, and reinstate Claimant's FIP, supplementing for any lost benefits.

  
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**Michael J. Bennane**  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Maura Corrigan, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: May 13, 2013

Date Mailed: May 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

MJB/pf

cc:

