

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

IN THE MATTER OF:



Reg. No.: 201343066
Issue No.: 1080
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: June 3, 2013
County: Wayne (35)

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 June 3, 2013, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included Claimant. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED], FIS/JET Specialist.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly deny Claimant's March 6, 2013, application for Family Independence Program (FIP) benefits?

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the competent, material, and substantial evidence on the whole record, finds as material fact:

1. On March 6, 2013, Claimant applied for FIP benefits on behalf of her four minor children.
2. On an unknown date, the Department denied Claimant's FIP application.
3. On April 22, 2013, Claimant filed a request for hearing disputing the Department's actions.

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 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, 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, Claimant applied for cash assistance on March 6, 2013. The Department did not provide a notice of case action denying the application with the hearing packet, despite being given the opportunity to do so at the hearing, but testified that the application was denied because Claimant had accrued 126 months of federally-funded FIP. Although Claimant had last received FIP benefits in December 2010 and could not confirm how many months she had received FIP benefits, the Department's evidence showing that Claimant had received 126 months of FIP benefits (more than twice the 60 month limit), in the absence of any evidence by Claimant countering this calculation, was sufficient to establish that Claimant had exceeded the federal 60-month FIP time limit. Although Claimant indicated in her application that she was disabled, Claimant would not be eligible for FIP after reaching her limit, even if she met any of the exemption criteria upon reapplication for benefits. BPB, p 1. Thus, the Department acted in accordance with Department policy when it denied Claimant's application for FIP cash assistance.

At the hearing, the Department testified that it did not assess Claimant's eligibility for cash benefits under the State Disability Assistance (SDA) program. However, Claimant admitted at the hearing that she did not apply for cash benefits on her own behalf, only for her children. Because Claimant did not seek benefits for herself, the Department properly did not process Claimant's application for SDA eligibility. See BEM 214 (January 1, 2010), p 2.

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 acted in accordance with Department policy when it denied Claimant's March 6, 2013 cash assistance application.

Accordingly, the Department's decision is AFFIRMED.



Alice C. Elkin

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

Date Signed: 6/12/2013

Date Mailed: 6/12/2013

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:

