

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 2013-47713  
Issue No.: 5022  
Case No.: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: July 31, 2013  
County: Wayne (82-15)

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Jonathan W. Owens

**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 August 6, 2013, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included Claimant. [REDACTED]. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED].

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly deny Claimant's request for State Emergency Relief (SER) assistance with shelter emergency?

**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 an unspecified date shortly before May 8, 2013, Claimant applied for SER assistance with shelter emergency.
2. On May 8, 2013, the Department sent notice of the application denial to Claimant.
3. On May 16, 2013, the Department received Claimant's hearing request, protesting the SER denial.

**CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

The State Emergency Relief (SER) program is established by 2004 PA 344. The SER program is administered pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and by, 1999 AC, Rule 400.7001 through Rule 400.7049. Department policies are found in the State Emergency Relief Manual (ERM).

In the instant case, Claimant applied for an SER assistance to pay her property tax bill of \$1,411. The Department denied Claimant's application citing affordability. The Department presented a hearing summary and the request for hearing. No budget documentation was presented at hearing. Claimant and the Department agree the Claimant's only source of income is \$400 a month in child support. The Department failed to show the housing costs associated with Claimant's residence. The Department presented no budgets to demonstrate how the Department determined Claimant's housing was not affordable.

While this Administrative Law Judge can determine, based upon the undisputed income amounts, that Claimant's monthly housing costs cannot exceed 75% of her \$400 monthly earnings, this Administrative Law Judge is unable to determine if Claimant's housing costs do, in fact, exceed the \$300 per month threshold. ERM 207 (March 2013), p. 1. The Department has the burden to demonstrate the actions taken were done so in accordance with policy. In this case, the Department failed to present sufficient evidence to meet this burden. The Department at hearing was not even able to demonstrate that the actions taken in regard to Claimant's application were timely, since the Department failed to present the date Claimant filed her application for benefits.


### **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.  did not act properly.

Accordingly, the Department's decision is AFFIRMED 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 reprocessing the Claimant's application for SER benefits;
2. Issue a written determination.

  
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**Jonathan W. Owens**  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Maura Corrigan, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: August 7, 2013

Date Mailed: August 8, 2013

**NOTICE OF APPEAL:** 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 or Reconsideration was made, within 30 days of the receipt date of the Decision and Order of Reconsideration or Rehearing Decision.

A Request for Rehearing or Reconsideration may be granted when one of the following exists:

- Newly discovered evidence that existed at the time of the original hearing that could affect the outcome of the original hearing decision;
- Misapplication of manual policy or law in the hearing decision which led to a wrong conclusion;
- Typographical, mathematical or other obvious error in the hearing decision that affects the rights of the client;
- Failure of the ALJ to address in the hearing decision relevant issues raised in the hearing request.

The Department, AHR or the claimant must specify all reasons for the request. MAHS will not review any response to a request for rehearing/reconsideration. A request must be *received* in MAHS within 30 days of the date the hearing decision is mailed.

The written request must be faxed to (517) 335-6088 and be labeled as follows:

Attention: MAHS Rehearing/Reconsideration Request

If submitted by mail, the written request must be addressed as follows:

Michigan Administrative Hearings  
Reconsideration/Rehearing Request  
P.O. Box 30639  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-07322

JWO/pf

cc:

