

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 201332131  
Issue No.: 1021  
Case No.: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: August 21, 2013  
County: Genesee (06)

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** C. Adam Purnell

**HEARING DECISION**

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and MCL 400.37 upon Claimant's request for a hearing. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on August 21, 2013 from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included [REDACTED] (Claimant). Participants on behalf of the Department included [REDACTED] (Family Independence Specialist).

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly determine 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 February 10, 2013, the Department notified Claimant that her FIP case would close effective March 1, 2013 because Claimant had exceeded the 60-month federal lifetime limit on receipt of FIP assistance as of September 1, 2011.
3. On February 21, 2013, the Department received Claimant's Request for Hearing, disputing the Department's action on the basis that Claimant had exceeded the 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 record indicated that Claimant received 143 months of federally funded FIP benefits since February of 1998. Claimant disputed the Department's calculation of her federal FIP months but she did not provide any reasons to explain her disagreement. In addition, Claimant did not provide any evidence to show that the Department's calculations were incorrect.

Thus, the Department did act in accordance with Department policy when it closed Claimant's FIP case effective March 1, 2013 for reaching the 60-month federal time limit.

Based upon the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Administrative Law Judge concludes that the Department properly closed Claimant's FIP case .

### **DECISION AND ORDER**

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law decides that the Department did act properly. Accordingly, the Department's FIP eligibility determination is **AFFIRMED**.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
C. Adam Purnell  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Maura Corrigan, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: August 23, 2013

Date Mailed: August 23, 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

201332131/CAP

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

CAP/aca

cc:

