

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 2014-129
Issue No.: 3016
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: October 23, 2013
County: SSPC (98)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Christian Gardocki

HEARING DECISION

Following Claimant's request for a hearing, this matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and 400.37; 7 CFR 273.15 to 273.18; 42 CFR 431.200 to 431.250; 45 CFR 99.1 to 99.33; and 45 CFR 205.10. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on October 23, 2013, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants included the above-named Claimant. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (DHS) included [REDACTED], Supervisor, and [REDACTED], Specialist.

ISSUE

The issue is whether DHS properly denied Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefit application due to Claimant's student status.

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 [REDACTED]/13, Claimant submitted an Assistance Application to DHS to request FAP benefits.
2. Claimant was the only member of a FAP benefit group.
3. Claimant's application noted that she was a half-time college student.
4. On [REDACTED] 13, DHS denied Claimant's FAP benefit application because Claimant was ineligible as a student and no other FAP benefit group members remained.

5. On [REDACTED]/13, Claimant requested a hearing to dispute the FAP benefit application denial.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Food Assistance Program (formerly known as the Food Stamp Program) is 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). DHS administers the FAP pursuant to Michigan Compiled Laws 400.10, *et seq.*, and Michigan Administrative Code R 400.3001-3015. DHS regulations are found in the Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), the Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) and the Reference Tables Manual (RFT).

Claimant requested a hearing to dispute a FAP benefit denial. It was not disputed that DHS denied the application based on Claimant's student status.

A person enrolled in a post-secondary education program may be in student status. BEM 245 (1/2013), p. 1. A person in student status must meet certain criteria in order to be eligible for assistance. *Id.*

A person is in student status if he/she is aged 18 through 49 years and enrolled half-time or more in either:

- a vocational, trade, business, or technical school that normally requires a high school diploma or an equivalency certificate; or
- a regular curriculum at a college or university that offers degree programs regardless of whether a diploma is required. *Id.*, pp. 2-3.

Claimant conceded that she reported that she was a half-time college student on her Assistance Application. Claimant testified that she was enrolled in fashion design school. As noted above, vocational school enrollment may result in student status.

Claimant testified that she is currently only enrolled in a single class, thereby suggesting that she is less than a half-time student. Claimant's current school enrollment is irrelevant to the DHS decision denying Claimant's application. As of [REDACTED]/13, the date of denial, Claimant either was, or reported to DHS that she was, a half-time student. Claimant was advised to reapply and note that she is less than a half-time student in her application.

It is found that DHS properly found Claimant to be in student status. It must then be determined whether Claimant meets an exception to student status.

In order for a person in student status to be eligible, they must meet one of the following criteria:

- Receiving FIP.
- Enrolled in an institution of higher education as a result of participation in:
 - A JTPA program.

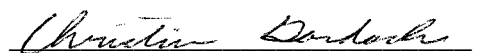
- A program under section 236 of the Trade Readjustment Act of 1974 (U. S. C. 2296).
- Another State or local government employment and training program.
- Physically or mentally unfit for employment.
- Employed for at least 20 hours per week and paid for such employment.
- Self-employed for at least 20 hours per week and earning weekly income at least equivalent to the federal minimum wage multiplied by 20 hours.
- Participating in an on-the-job training program. A person is considered to be participating in an on-the-job training program only during the period of time the person is being trained by the employer.
- Participating in a state or federally-funded work study program (funded in full or in part under Title IV-C of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended) during the regular school year (i.e. workstudy).
- Providing more than half of the physical care of a group member under the age of six.
- Providing more than half of the physical care of a group member age six through eleven and the local office has determined adequate child care is not available to:
 - Enable the person to attend class and work at least 20 hours per week.
 - Participate in a state or federally-financed work study program during the regular school year.
- A single parent enrolled full-time in an institution of higher education who cares for a dependent under age 12. This includes a person who does not live with his or her spouse, who has parental control over a child who does not live with his or her natural, adoptive or stepparent. *Id.* at 3-4.

The person remains in student status while attending classes regularly. *Id.* at 4. Student status continues during official school vacations and periods of extended illness. *Id.* Student status does not continue if the student is suspended or does not intend to register for the next school term (excluding summer term). *Id.*

It was not disputed that Claimant did not meet any of the exceptions for student status. It was not disputed that Claimant was the only potential FAP benefit group member. Accordingly, it is found that DHS properly denied Claimant's FAP benefit application due to Claimant's student status.

DECISION AND ORDER

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, finds that DHS properly denied Claimant's FAP benefit application dated [REDACTED] 13. The actions taken by DHS are AFFIRMED.


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

Date Signed: 11/1/2013

Date Mailed: 11/1/2013

NOTICE OF APPEAL: 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.

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).

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

CG/hw

cc:

