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

### IN THE MATTER OF:



Reg. No.: 2014 11424 Issue No.: 3008 Case No.: December 5, 2013 Hearing Date: County: Oakland (02)

## **ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Lynn M. Ferris

## **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, telephone hearing was held on December 5, 2013, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included the Claimant. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included **Exercise**, ES.

### ISSUE

Due to excess income, did the Department properly and deny the Claimant's application  $\Box$  close Claimant's case  $\boxtimes$  reduce Claimant's benefits for:

- Family Independence Program (FIP)? Food Assistance Program (FAP)?
- Adult Medical Assistance (AMP)?
- State Disability Assistance (SDA)?

Medical Assistance (MA)?

Child Development and Care (CDC)?

## **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  $\square$  applied for  $\square$  received: FIP  $\square$  FAP  $\square$  MA  $\square$  AMP SDA benefits.
- 2. On November 1, 2013, the Department denied Claimant's application  $\Box$  closed Claimant's case  $\boxtimes$  reduced Claimant's benefits due to excess income.

- 3. On October 24, 2013, the Department sent Claimant/Claimant's Authorized Representative (AR) its decision.
- 4. On October 28, 2013, Claimant/Claimant's Authorized Hearing Representative (AHR) filed a hearing request, protesting 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 Food Assistance Program (FAP) [formerly known as the Food Stamp program] is established by the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, 7 USC 2011 to 2036a and is implemented by the federal regulations contained in 7 CFR 271.1 to 285.5. The Department (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers FAP pursuant to MCL 400.10 and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3001 to .3015.

Additionally, at the hearing the claimant confirmed that the Department correctly calculated claimant's unearned income received from Social Security for RSDI benefits in the amount of \$892 effective September 1, 2013. Previously the claimant had been receiving \$740 in RSDI. Exhibit 4

The Department presented a Food Assistance Budget which was reviewed in detail at the hearing and with the claimant. It was determined during the hearing that the claimant's Food Assistance benefits were reduced due to an increase in her unearned income. It is noted that the claimant claimed no shelter deduction and thus the budget was extremely simple. Based upon the budget submitted the Department correctly determined the claimant's net benefit amount for Food Assistance was \$21. Based on the claimant's net income of \$558 for a group of one it is determined that the claimant is only entitled to food assistance benefits in the amount of \$21. RFT 260, pp. 5, (11/1/13)

As discussed at the hearing the claimant is allowed to submit any expenses associated with her house, with respect to insurance and property taxes, but no such expenses have previously been provided to the Department. Upon presenting further verification of these expenses, if any, the Department will recalculate the claimant's food assistance benefits.

Based on the evidence as a whole and the testimony of the parties it is determined that the Department properly calculated the claimant's food assistance benefits and therefore its determination is correct and in accordance with Department Policy.

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and for the reasons stated on the record, if any, finds that the Department

acted in accordance with Department policy when it reduced the claimant's Food Assistance based upon an increase in the amount of income received by the claimant from Social Security (RSDI).

# DECISION AND ORDER

Accordingly, the Department's decision is

AFFIRMED.

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Lynn M. Ferris Administrative Law Judge for Maura Corrigan, Director Department of Human Services

Date Signed: December 13, 2013

Date Mailed: December 13, 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

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