

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

██████████  
██████████████████  
██████████

Reg. No. 2014-12539  
Issue No. 1008  
Case No. ██████████  
Hearing Date: December 11, 2013  
County: Wayne (35)

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Susan C. Burke

**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; 42 CFR 431.200 to 431.250; and 45 CFR 205.10. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on December 11, 2013, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included Claimant and Claimant's mother ██████████. Participants on behalf of Department of Human Services (Department) included ██████████ ES, ██████████, PATH Coordinator and ██████████ Case Manager of Resource Network.

**ISSUE**

Whether the Department properly denied Claimant's application for benefits under the Family Independence Program (FIP) based on Claimant's failure to complete the entire PATH orientation process.

**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 or about October 14, 2013, Claimant applied for FIP and was required to participate in the PATH orientation.
2. Claimant attended the PATH program to the best of her knowledge and within her control.
3. On November 4, 2013, the Department denied Claimant's application due to Claimant failing to complete the entire PATH orientation process by not attending scheduled meetings.

4. The Department did not present for examination documentation showing Claimant's agreed upon PATH meeting schedule.
5. On November 8, 2013, Claimant filed a hearing request disputing the Department's action.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

Department policies are found in the Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), the Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) and the 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 1999 AC, Rule 400.3101 through Rule 400.3131. FIP replaced the Aid to Dependent Children (ADC) program effective October 1, 1996.

The Department requires Work Eligible Individuals (WEI) seeking FIP to participate in employment and self-sufficiency-related activities. BEM 233A. Failing, without good cause, to participate in employment or self-sufficiency-related activities results in the WEI being penalized. *Id.* Good cause is a valid reason for noncompliance that is based on factors that are beyond the control of the noncompliant person. *Id.*

In the present case, Claimant applied for FIP and was required to participate in employment-related activities. On November 4, 2013, the Department denied Claimant's application due to Claimant failing to complete entire PATH orientation process by not attending scheduled meetings. The Department's witness testified that Claimant signed a form with an agreed-upon schedule. The Department did not present for examination documentation showing Claimant's agreed upon schedule. Claimant testified credibly that she attended the PATH program to the best of her knowledge of the schedule and within her control. Claimant stated that she knew of one date she was to attend but could not because of a bus strike. On the date Claimant could not attend, she notified her PATH worker. Claimant's mother also testified credibly that Claimant attended PATH regularly.

Based on the above discussion, it is found that Claimant participated in the PATH orientation process to the best of her knowledge and control.

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

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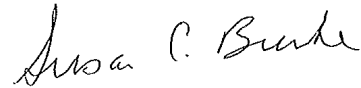
satisfy its burden of showing that it acted in accordance with Department policy. when it denied Claimant's FIP application.

**DECISION AND ORDER**

Accordingly, the Department's decision is REVERSED.

THE DEPARTMENT IS ORDERED TO BEGIN DOING THE FOLLOWING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH DEPARTMENT POLICY AND CONSISTENT WITH THIS HEARING DECISION, WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE DATE OF MAILING OF THIS DECISION AND ORDER:

1. Initiate reinstatement and reprocessing of Claimant's FIP application of on or about October 14, 2013,
2. Issue FIP supplements for any payment Claimant was entitled to receive, in accordance with Department policy.



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Susan C. Burke  
Administrative Law Judge  
For Maura Corrigan, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: December 17, 2013

Date Mailed: December 17, 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:

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- 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

SCB/tm

cc: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]