

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 2014-11453
Issue No(s): 3003
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: December 12, 2013
County: Macomb-20

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Darryl T. Johnson

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 December 12, 2013, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included the Claimant, [REDACTED]. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included Eligibility Specialist [REDACTED].

ISSUE

Did the Department properly decrease Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits?

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 on-going recipient of FAP benefits.
2. As part of a re-determination, Claimant was asked to provide verification of her earnings.
3. Claimant's documented earnings were greater than the estimated earnings which were previously used to determine her FAP benefits.
4. Because her documented earned income was greater than her previously budgeted earned income, Claimant's FAP benefits were reduced beginning December 1, 2013.
5. Claimant requested a hearing on November 7, 2013

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), Department of Human Services Reference Tables Manual (RFT), and Department of Human Services Emergency Relief Manual (ERM).

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.

Claimant had earned income that was considered in determining her eligibility for FAP. Bridges used her earnings for four weeks in October to calculate her budget. Her gross wages for each week are:

Claimant 10/1/13		\$ [REDACTED]
10/8/13		\$ [REDACTED]
10/15/13		\$ [REDACTED]
10/22/13		\$ [REDACTED]
Total		\$ [REDACTED]

In the weeks preceding the re-determination (Exhibit 1) she had gross income of \$ [REDACTED]. Per BEM 505, "A standard monthly amount must be determined for each income source used in the budget." "Convert stable and fluctuating income that is received more often than monthly to a standard monthly amount. Use one of the following methods:

- "Multiply weekly income by 4.3.
- "Multiply amounts received every two weeks by 2.15.
- "Add amounts received twice a month."

To convert the group members' weekly incomes to monthly, the total is divided by the number of weeks (four in this case) and then multiplied by 4.3. The Claimant's monthly income is \$ [REDACTED]. Previously, Claimant's employer had verified that she worked 15 to 20 hours per pay period, at \$ [REDACTED] per hour. While the hourly wage was reported correctly, the number of hours she actually worked per bi-weekly pay period was much more than 15-20. When the Department recalculated her earnings for the budget, her actual earnings were considerably higher, which in turn resulted in a decrease in the FAP available to her.

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 decreased Claimant's Food Assistance Program benefits.

DECISION AND ORDER

Accordingly, the Department's decision is **AFFIRMED**.



Darryl T. Johnson
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: December 12, 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.

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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

DTJ/las

cc:

