

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**



Reg. No.: 2013-35908  
Issue No.: 1021  
Case No.: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: April 22, 2013  
County: Wayne (76)

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

**HEARING DECISION**

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and MCL 400.37 upon the Claimant's request for a hearing received by the Department of Human Services (Department) on March 15, 2013. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on April 22, 2013, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of the Claimant included Claimant. Participants on behalf of the Department included [REDACTED].

**ISSUE**

Whether the Department properly determined 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, including the date of January 9, 2013.
2. On February 12, 2012, the Department notified Claimant that her FIP case would close effective March 1, 2012, because she had exceeded the 60-month federal lifetime limit on receipt of FIP assistance as of November 1, 2012.
3. On March 15, 2013, the Department received the Claimant's Request for Hearing, disputing the Department's action.

**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 Department agreed that Claimant received FIP benefits as of January 9, 2013. The Department did not have Claimant's complete case file at the hearing to determine if Claimant was eligible for an exception, and Claimant testified credibly that she was exempt from participation in PATH. It therefore cannot be concluded that the Department acted correctly in closing Claimant's FIP case.

Thus, the Department did not 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, and for the reasons stated on the record, the Administrative Law Judge concludes that the Department

properly closed Claimant's FIP case       improperly closed Claimant's FIP case

**DECISION AND ORDER**

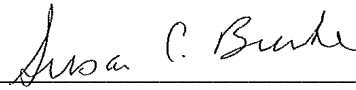
The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law and for the reasons stated on the record, decides that the Department

did act properly.  
 did not act properly.

Accordingly, the Department's FIP eligibility determination is  
 AFFIRMED.       REVERSED.

THE DEPARTMENT SHALL INITIATE WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE DATE OF MAILING OF THIS DECISION AND ORDER, THE FOLLOWING:

1. Initiate redetermination of Claimant's FIP eligibility, effective March 1, 2013, determining whether Claimant meets an exception to the FIP federal time limit.
2. Notify Claimant in writing of the Department's determination.
3. Issue FIP supplements for any payment that Claimant was entitled to receive but did not 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: April 24, 2013

Date Mailed: April 24, 2013

**NOTICE:** 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 was made, within 30 days of the receipt date of the rehearing decision.

Claimant may request a rehearing or reconsideration for the following reasons:

- A rehearing **MAY** be granted if there is newly discovered evidence that could affect the outcome of the original hearing decision.
- A reconsideration **MAY** be granted for any of the following reasons:
  - misapplication of manual policy or law in the hearing decision,
  - typographical errors, mathematical error, or other obvious errors in the hearing decision that effect the substantial rights of the claimant:
  - the failure of the ALJ to address other relevant issues in the hearing decision.

2013-35908/SCB

Request must be submitted through the local DHS office or directly to MAHS by mail at  
Michigan Administrative Hearings  
Reconsideration/Rehearing Request  
P. O. Box 30639  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-07322

SCB/tm

cc:

