

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No: 2013-36880
Issue No: 3015
[REDACTED]
Hearing Date: April 25, 2013
Washtenaw County DHS

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Corey A. Arendt

HEARING DECISION

This matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and MCL 400.37 following Claimant's request for a hearing. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on April 25, 2013 from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED].

ISSUE

Did the Department properly reduce the Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) allotment?

FINDINGS OF FACT

I find as material fact, based on the competent, material, and substantial evidence on the whole record:

1. As of February 2012, the Claimant received \$ [REDACTED] a month in FAP benefits.
2. On March 1, 2013, the Department reduced the Claimant's FAP allotment to \$ [REDACTED] a month.
3. On March 12, 2013, the Department sent the Claimant a notice of case action indicating the Claimant's FAP allotment was being reduced to \$ [REDACTED] a month effective March 1, 2013.
4. On March 21, 2013, the Claimant requested a hearing in protest of the FAP reduction.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Department policies are contained in the Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), the Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM), and the Reference Tables Manual (RFT).

The FAP [formerly known as the Food Stamp (F S) 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). The Department (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers FAP pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and 1999 AC, R 400.3001 through Rule 400.3015.

In this case, the Department failed to provide testimony or exhibits to show how the Department calculated the reduced FAP allotment. Furthermore, the little evidence produced by the Department was inaccurate as it clearly did not contain any housing/rental expense. Therefore, I was unable to determine whether the Department acted in accordance with the applicable laws and policies in reducing the Claimant's FAP allotment.

Based upon the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and for the reasons stated on the record, I conclude the Department improperly reduced the Claimant's FAP allotment.

DECISION AND ORDER

I find based upon the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and for the reasons stated on the record, the Department did not act properly.

Accordingly, the Department's FAP decision is **REVERSED** for the reasons stated on the record.

THE DEPARTMENT IS ORDERED TO DO THE FOLLOWING WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE DATE OF MAILING OF THIS DECISION AND ORDER:

1. Initiate a redetermination as to the Claimant's eligibility for FAP benefits beginning March 1, 2013 and issue retroactive benefits if otherwise qualified and eligible.
2. In making the redetermination, the Department is to provide the Claimant with rental verifications to determine the Claimant's rental expense as of March 1, 2013.



Corey A. Arendt
Administrative Law Judge
For Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: April 26, 2013

Date Mailed: April 26, 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.

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

CAA/las

cc:

