

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

██████████  
██████████  
██████████

Reg. No.: 2013-43472  
Issue No.: 3021  
Case No.: ██████████  
Hearing Date: May 28, 2013  
County: Wayne (35)

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Zainab Baydoun

**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 May 28, 2013, from Detroit, Michigan. Claimant appeared and testified. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included ██████████ Family Independence Specialist.

**ISSUE**

Due to excess assets, did the Department properly ☒ deny the Claimant's application  
☐ close Claimant's case for:

- |                                                                    |                                                             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Independence Program (FIP)?        | <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Medical Assistance (AMP)?    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Food Assistance Program (FAP)? | <input type="checkbox"/> State Disability Assistance (SDA)? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Assistance (MA)?                  |                                                             |

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the competent, material, and substantial evidence on the whole record, including the testimony at the hearing, finds as material fact:

1. Claimant ☒ applied for benefits ☐ received benefits for:

- |                                                                    |                                                             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Independence Program (FIP).        | <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Medical Assistance (AMP).    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Food Assistance Program (FAP). | <input type="checkbox"/> State Disability Assistance (SDA). |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Assistance (MA).                  |                                                             |

2. Due to excess assets, on March 13, 2013, the Department  
☒ denied Claimant's application. ☐ closed Claimant's case.
3. On April 12, 2013, the Department sent  
☒ Claimant ☐ Claimant's Authorized Representative (AR)  
notice of the ☒ denial. ☐ closure.
4. On April 22, 2013, Claimant filed a hearing request, protesting the  
☒ denial of the application. ☐ closure of the case.

### **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 Food Assistance Program (FAP) [formerly known as the Food Stamp (FS) 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, Rule 400.3001 through Rule 400.3015.

In this case, Claimant submitted an application for FAP benefits on March 13, 2013. The Department sent Claimant a Notice of Case Action on April 12, 2013 denying her FAP application because the value of Claimant's assets exceeded the FAP asset value limit. (Exhibit 1). Assets must be considered in determining eligibility for FAP. BEM 400 (January 2013), p 1; BEM 213 (October 2011), p 1. Asset eligibility exists when the group's countable assets are less than, or equal to, the FAP asset limit of \$5,000. BEM 400, p 4. Assets are defined as cash, any other personal property and real property. BEM 400, p.1. Money in checking and savings accounts are counted as cash and applied towards the FAP asset limit. BEM 400, p.11.

In this case, the Department testified that Claimant had countable assets of \$5,413.03, consisting of cash that Claimant had in her bank accounts. The Department testified that with her application, Claimant submitted proof of her bank statements which indicated that she has \$5,413.03 in her accounts. Although the Department did not provide proof of the bank statements relied on at the hearing, Claimant confirmed that at the time of her application, she had \$5,413.03 in her bank accounts and that she provided copies of her bank statements showing this amount with her application. The Department provided a FAP Asset Eligibility Result to show that the value of Claimant's assets exceeded the \$5,000.00 asset limit for FAP purposes. (Exhibit 3).

Because under BEM 400, the value of Claimant's assets exceeded the \$5,000.00 FAP asset limit, the Department acted in accordance with Department policy when it denied Claimant's March 13, 2013 FAP application due to excess assets.

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, due to excess assets, the Department

☒ properly denied Claimant's application    ☐ improperly denied Claimant's application  
☐ properly closed Claimant's case    ☐ improperly closed Claimant's case

for:    ☐ AMP    ☐ FIP    ☒ FAP    ☐ MA    ☐ SDA.

### **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, finds that the Department  
☒ did act properly.    ☐ did not act properly.

Accordingly, the Department's ☐ AMP ☐ FIP    ☒ FAP    ☐ MA    ☐ SDA decision is  
☒ AFFIRMED    ☐ REVERSED for the reasons stated above and on the record.



**Zainab Baydoun**  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Maura Corrigan, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: June 3, 2013

Date Mailed: June 3, 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.

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.

2013-43472/ZB

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

ZB/cl

cc:

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]