

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

██████████  
██  
██

Reg. No.: 2013-47526  
Issue Nos.: 1038, 3002  
Case No.: ██████████  
Hearing Date: June 13, 2013  
County: Wayne (35)

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Jan Leventer

**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 June 13, 2013, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included the Claimant. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included ██████████ ██████████, Family Independence Specialist.

**ISSUE**

Due to excess income, did the Department properly  deny the Claimant's application  close Claimant's case  reduce Claimant's benefits for:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" 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)?                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Child Development and Care (CDC)?  |

**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  applied for benefits for:  received benefits for:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" 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).                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Child Development and Care (CDC).  |

2. On April 1, 2013 and May 1, 2013, the Department  denied Claimant's application  
 closed Claimant's case  reduced Claimant's benefits due to a determination that she did not cooperate with the requirements of work and work-readiness.
3. On March 6, 2013, the Department sent  
 Claimant  Claimant's Authorized Representative (AR) notice of the  denial.  closure.  reduction.
4. On May 13, 2013, Claimant or Claimant's AHR filed a hearing request, protesting the  denial of the application.  closure of the case.  reduction of benefits.

### **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 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 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.

Additionally, the following findings of fact and conclusions of law are entered in this case. Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) 233A, "Failure to Meet Employment and/or Self-Sufficiency-Related Requirements: FIP," and 233B, "Failure to Meet Employment Requirements: FAP," require customers to participate in work-readiness and work activity as a condition of receiving benefits. At the hearing the Department presented case notes from the work-readiness program establishing that Claimant failed to participate fully in the program since at least February 3, 2013. Department of Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) 233A; BEM 233B; Dept. Exh. 11.

The work-readiness case notes contain the following information. On February 22, 2013 the work-readiness worker spoke by telephone with Claimant and asked why she had not participated in the program. Claimant responded that she had other things going on in her life that were more important at this time, "like she trying to keep herself from going to jail." Dept. Exh. 11. p. 2.

The February 22, 2013 case note also states that Claimant did not submit job search data sheets since February 3, 2013, that Claimant had not communicated her problems to the worker in a timely fashion, and that Claimant had not followed through with her re-engagement plan responsibilities dating from January 3, 2013. *Id.*

In this case it is found and determined that the record is clear that Claimant failed to participate as required, and that the Department acted correctly in terminating FIP and reducing FAP benefits to her. While it may be true that the Department's Notice of Noncompliance did not contain all of the dates of noncompliance, and, the Notice may have been sent to the wrong address, and also, the Claimant may have failed to report a change of address in a timely manner, the fact remains that notwithstanding these things, the Department reached the right conclusion in this case.

Claimant does not dispute her history in the work-readiness program. Her statements to the program worker, are undisputed, and constitute an admission by Claimant that she did not participate as required. In this case, it is unnecessary to return this case to the Department to reschedule a triage conference, send out a notice, and conduct a triage, because Claimant herself admits that she was noncompliant.

Having reviewed all of the evidence in this case in its entirety, it is found and determined that the Department acted correctly in this case in terminating FIP and reducing FAP benefits. The Department is affirmed.

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 income, the Department  properly  improperly

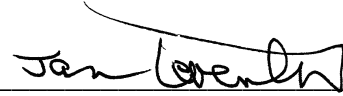
- denied Claimant's application
- reduced Claimant's benefits
- closed Claimant's case

for:  AMP  FIP  FAP  MA  SDA  CDC.

### **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  CDC decision is  AFFIRMED  REVERSED for the reasons stated on the record.



**Jan Leventer**  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Maura Corrigan, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: August 27, 2013

Date Mailed: August 28, 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 affect the substantial rights of the claimant,
  - 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

JL/tm

cc: 