

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

████████████████████  
████████████████  
████████████████████

Reg. No.: 2013-51741  
Issue No.: 3016  
Case No.: ██████████  
Hearing Date: July 8, 2013  
County: Wayne (31)

**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 July 8, 2013, from Detroit, Michigan. Claimant appeared and testified. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included ██████████, Assistance Payment Supervisor.

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly close Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) case?

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

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

1. Claimant was an ongoing recipient of FAP benefits.
2. On April 15, 2013, the Department sent Claimant a Redetermination that was to be completed and returned by May 1, 2013. (Exhibit 1)
3. On May 23, 2013 the Department sent Claimant a Notice of Case Action, informing her that her FAP case would be closing effective June 1, 2013 on the basis that she is not an eligible student. (Exhibit 4)
4. On June 4, 2013 Claimant filed a hearing request, disputing the Department's actions.

## **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

Department policies are found in the Department of Human Services 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 Mich Admin Code, Rule 400.3001-3015.

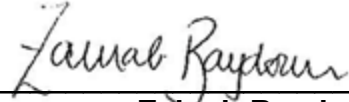
Additionally, Claimant was an ongoing recipient of FAP benefits. In connection with a redetermination, Claimant's eligibility for FAP benefits was reviewed. (Exhibit 1). Claimant submitted verifications to the Department which included paystubs from her part time job. (Exhibit 2). On May 23, 2013 the Department sent Claimant a Notice of Case Action, informing her that her FAP case would be closing effective June 1, 2013 on the basis that she is not an eligible student. (Exhibit 4) A person enrolled in a post-secondary education program may be in student status and eligible for FAP assistance. A person in student status must meet certain criteria in order to be eligible for FAP benefits. BEM 245 (January 2013), pp.1. Claimant confirmed that she is enrolled as a full-time student and stated that she is employed. Clients who are employed for at least 20 hours per week and paid for such employment are considered eligible students for FAP purposes. BEM 245, p. 3. The Department testified that because Claimant does not work a full 20 hours per week, she is not eligible to receive FAP benefits. The paystubs provided to the Department by Claimant verify that she is paid biweekly and that her biweekly hours worked are below 40 hours. (Exhibit 2). Claimant confirmed that she usually works about 16 hours per week.

Claimant testified that she is not physically or mentally unfit for employment and that she does not participate in on-the-job training or in a work study program. Claimant also is not a single parent nor does she provide more than half of the physical care of a group member under the age of six. BEM 245, pp.2-4. Based on the above information and additional testimony provided at the hearing by both Claimant and the Department, Claimant does not meet any of the criteria found in BEM 245; and is therefore not eligible to receive FAP benefits. BEM 245, pp.2-4.

FAP benefits stop at the end of the benefit period unless a redetermination is completed and a new benefit period is certified. BAM 210 (November 2012), p 2. Timely notice of the FAP case closure is not required if the FAP certification period has expired. BAM 220 (November 2012), p. 4. In this case, a new benefit period was not certified because at redetermination, the Department determined that Claimant was not an eligible student. Therefore, the Department properly closed Claimant's FAP case and provided her with notice of the closure, as she is not an eligible student.

**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 acted in accordance with Department policy when it closed Claimant's FAP case due to her not being an eligible student. Accordingly, the Department's decision is AFFIRMED.



**Zainab Baydoun**

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

Date Signed: July 15, 2013

Date Mailed: July 15, 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

ZB/cl

2013-51741/ZB

cc:

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