

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

IN THE MATTER OF:



Reg. No.: 2012-7197
Issue No.: 3002
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: December 5, 2012
County: Wayne (17)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Alice C. Elkin

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 December 5, 2012, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included Claimant. Participants on behalf of Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED] Eligibility Specialist.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly reduce Claimant's 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)? | <input type="checkbox"/> Child Development and Care (CDC)? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Direct Support Services (DSS)? | |

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 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). | <input type="checkbox"/> Child Development and Care (CDC). |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Direct Support Services (DSS). | |

2. On October 1, 2012, the Department reduced Claimant's FAP benefits based on Claimant's failure to comply with employment-related activities.
3. On September 8, 2012, the Department sent Claimant notice of the reduction.
4. On October 16, 2011, Claimant filed a hearing request, protesting the Department's action.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

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 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 Mich Admin Code, R 400.3101 through R 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 Mich Admin Code, R 400.3001 through R 400.3015.

The Medical Assistance (MA) program is established by the Title XIX of the Social Security Act and is implemented by Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). The Department of Human Services (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers the MA program pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and MCL 400.105.

The Adult Medical Program (AMP) is established by 42 USC 1315, and is administered by the Department pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*

The State Disability Assistance (SDA) program, which provides financial assistance for disabled persons, is established by 2004 PA 344. The Department of Human Services (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers the SDA program pursuant to MCL 400.10, *et seq.*, and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3151 through R 400.3180.

The Child Development and Care (CDC) program is established by Titles IVA, IVE and XX of the Social Security Act, the Child Care and Development Block Grant of 1990, and the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996.

The program is implemented by Title 45 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 98 and 99. The Department provides services to adults and children pursuant to MCL 400.14(1) and Mich Admin Code, R 400.5001 through R 400.5015.

Direct Support Services (DSS) is administered by the Department pursuant to MCL 400.57a, et. seq., and Mich Admin Code R 400.3603.

Additionally, on September 8, 2012, the Department sent Claimant a Notice of Case Action notifying her that effective October 1, 2012, she would be removed as a member of her FAP group and her FAP benefits would be reduced to \$525 per month. At the hearing, the Department explained that the reason for the reduction was that Claimant had voluntarily quit a job, reduced her hours of employment or failed to participate in required employment-related activities without good cause.

A FAP recipient is subject to disqualification from FAP group membership if (i) the individual is noncompliant with FIP-required employment-related activities; (ii) a non-deferred adult voluntarily quit a job of 30 hours or more per week without good cause or reduced hours of employment below 30 hours per week without good cause; or (iii) if a non-deferred adult who is not working or is working less than 30 hours per week fails to accept a bona fide offer of employment or fails to participate in activities required to receive unemployment benefits (if the claimant has applied for or is receiving unemployment benefits). BEM 230B (December 1, 2011), pp 2-3; BEM 233B (October 1, 2012), pp 1-4.

Evidence at the hearing established that Claimant worked for the Dearborn Public Schools during the school year and for 7-11 year round and that she had not quit either job or voluntarily reduced her hours of employment. Claimant testified that she had applied for Family Independence Program (FIP) benefits in the summer but subsequently withdrew her application before receiving any benefits. The Department verified that Claimant had not received any FIP benefits. The Department could not counter any of Claimant's testimony or further explain the basis for removing Claimant as a qualified member of her FAP group and reducing her FAP benefits. Under the facts in this case, where there was no evidence that Claimant was subject to a FIP-related sanction or that she had not complied with the employment requirements under the FAP program, the Department has failed to satisfy its burden of showing that it acted in accordance with Department policy when it reduced Claimant's FAP benefits.

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 improperly reduced Claimant's FAP benefits.

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 DSS decision is AFFIRMED 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. Remove any FAP employment-related sanctions applied on or around October 1, 2012, from Claimant's record;
2. Begin recalculating Claimant's FAP benefits for October 1, 2012, ongoing, in accordance with Department policy, to include Claimant as a qualified member of her FAP group;
3. Issue supplements to Claimant for any FAP benefits she was eligible to receive but did not from October 1, 2012, ongoing; and
4. Notify Claimant in writing of its decision in accordance with Department policy.



Alice C. Elkin
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: December 13, 2012

Date Mailed: December 13, 2012

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.

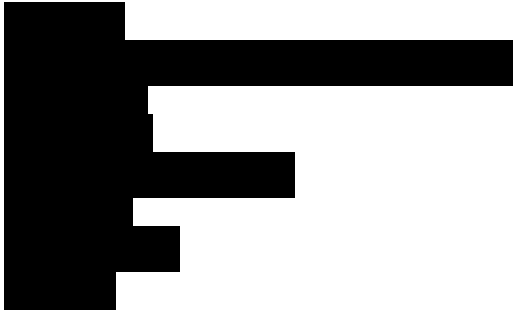
Claimant may request a rehearing or reconsideration for the following reasons:

- 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:
 - 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
Re consideration/Rehearing Request
P. O. Box 30639
Lansing, Michigan 48909-07322

ACE/cl

cc:

A large black rectangular redaction box covers the names and email addresses of the recipients listed under the 'cc:' field.