

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

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

Reg. No.: 201421931
Issue No(s): 2001
Case No.: ██████████
Hearing Date: March 24, 2014
County: Wayne (17)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Robert J. Chavez

HEARING DECISION

Following Claimant's request for a hearing, this matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and 400.37; 7 CFR 273.15 to 273.18; 42 CFR 431.200 to 431.250; 45 CFR 99.1 to 99.33; and 45 CFR 205.10. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on March 24, 2014, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included ██████████. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included ██████████, APW.

ISSUE

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

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

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 received:
 FIP FAP MA AMP SDA SER
benefits.
2. Due to excess assets, on January 9, 2014, the Department
 denied Claimant's application. closed Claimant's case.

3. On January 9, 2014, the Department sent Claimant/Claimant's Authorized Representative (AR) its decision.
4. On January 13, 2014, Claimant/Claimant's Authorized Hearing Representative (AHR) filed a hearing request, protesting the Department's actions.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Department policies are found in the Department of Human Services Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), Department of Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM), Department of Human Services Reference Tables Manual (RFT), and Department of Human Services Emergency Relief Manual (ERM).

The Medical Assistance (MA) program is established by the Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 USC 1396-1396w-5, and is implemented by 42 CFR 400.200 to 1008.59. The Department of Human Services (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers the MA program pursuant to MCL 400.10 and MCL 400.105.

Claimant's MA was denied, due to excess assets on January 9, 2014, for exceeding the [REDACTED] asset limit found in BEM 400 for SSI related MA.

As claimant's checking account information (Department Exhibit 4) appears to only contain \$ [REDACTED]0, it appears that claimant's application was denied based on claimant's vehicle ownership. The Department testified that fair market value was used to determine the value of the vehicles with regards to the asset limit.

Per BEM 400, with regards to SSI related MA, the MA program under which claimant was evaluated, the value of a vehicle is its equity value. Equity value is the fair market value minus the amount legally owed in a written lien provision. Furthermore, policy states that the one motorized vehicle is to be excluded from the asset group; this excluded vehicle is to be the vehicle with the highest equity value. BEM 400, pg 36.

The equity values as established by the Department for the vehicles in question were [REDACTED].

Therefore, the Department should have excluded the vehicle with the [REDACTED] equity value from its asset calculations, leaving only one vehicle with negative equity value. As this vehicle had negative equity value, and claimant's cash assets did not surpass the [REDACTED] limit for SSI related MA, the Department was incorrect to deny claimant's application on the basis of exceeding the asset limit.

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and for the reasons stated on the record, if any, finds that the Department

did not act in accordance with Department policy when it denying claimant's MA benefits.

DECISION AND ORDER

Accordingly, the Department's decision is

- AFFIRMED.
 REVERSED.

THE DEPARTMENT IS ORDERED TO BEGIN DOING THE FOLLOWING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH DEPARTMENT POLICY AND CONSISTENT WITH THIS HEARING DECISION, WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE DATE OF MAILING OF THIS DECISION AND ORDER:

1. Reprocess the MA application in question and include the proper valuation for claimant's vehicles with regards to the asset limits.



Robert J. Chavez
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: April 15, 2014

Date Mailed: April 15, 2014

NOTICE OF APPEAL: 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 or Reconsideration was made, within 30 days of the receipt date of the Decision and Order of Reconsideration or Rehearing Decision.

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).

A Request for Rehearing or Reconsideration may be granted when one of the following exists:

- Newly discovered evidence that existed at the time of the original hearing that could affect the outcome of the original hearing decision;
- Misapplication of manual policy or law in the hearing decision which led to a wrong conclusion;
- Typographical, mathematical or other obvious error in the hearing decision that affects the rights of the client;

- Failure of the ALJ to address in the hearing decision relevant issues raised in the hearing request.

The Department, AHR or the claimant must specify all reasons for the request. MAHS will not review any response to a request for rehearing/reconsideration. A request must be *received* in MAHS within 30 days of the date the hearing decision is mailed.

The written request must be faxed to (517) 335-6088 and be labeled as follows:

Attention: MAHS Rehearing/Reconsideration Request

If submitted by mail, the written request must be addressed as follows:

Michigan Administrative Hearings
Reconsideration/Rehearing Request
P.O. Box 30639
Lansing, Michigan 48909-07322

RJC/tm

cc: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]