

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 2014-31228
Issue No.: 3008
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: April 07, 2014
County: Wayne (15)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Zainab Baydoun

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 April 7, 2014, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included Claimant and his sister, [REDACTED]. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED], Eligibility Specialist.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly calculate the amount of Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits?

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 was an ongoing recipient of FAP benefits.
2. On February 26, 2014, the Department sent Claimant a Notice of Case Action informing him that effective March 1, 2014, he was approved for FAP benefits in the amount of \$15.(Exhibit 1)
3. On March 10, 2014, Claimant submitted a hearing request disputing the amount of his FAP benefits.

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), Department of Human Services Reference Tables Manual (RFT), and Department of Human Services Emergency Relief Manual (ERM).

The Food Assistance Program (FAP) [formerly known as the Food Stamp program] is established by the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, 7 USC 2011 to 2036a and is implemented by the federal regulations contained in 7 CFR 271.1 to 285.5. The Department (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers FAP pursuant to MCL 400.10 and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3001 to .3015.

Additionally, the gross amount of money earned from Retirement, Survivors, Disability Insurance (RSDI) and veteran pension and compensation payments as unearned income. BEM 503 (January 2013), pp.31-32, 36.

At the hearing, the FAP EDG Net Income Results Budget for March 1, 2014 was reviewed. (Exhibit 2). The Department concluded that Claimant had unearned income of \$1541 which it testified came from \$503 in RSDI benefits and \$1038 in veteran compensation benefits. Claimant confirmed the amounts relied on by the Department and the Department presented an SOLQ in support of its testimony. (Exhibit 3).


The budget shows that the Department properly applied the \$151 standard deduction applicable to Claimant's confirmed group size of one and the Department testified that it considered Claimant's confirmed housing costs of \$500. The \$553.00 standard heat and utility deduction available to all FAP recipients was also properly applied. RFT 255 (December 2013), p 1; BEM 554 (July 2013), pp. 14-15.

Because Claimant's FAP group includes Senior/Disabled/Veteran (SDV) members, the group is eligible for a deduction for verified medical expenses incurred in excess of \$35.00. BEM 554, p 1. The Department testified that because no medical expenses were submitted, this deduction was not considered in the budget.

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and for the reasons stated on the record, if any, finds that after further review of the evidence presented, the Department properly determined that Claimant had monthly net income of \$1032 and that he was eligible to receive FAP benefits in the amount of \$15. RFT 260 (December 2013), p.14. Therefore, the Department acted in accordance with Department policy when it calculated Claimant's FAP benefits.

DECISION AND ORDER

Accordingly, the Department's FAP decision is AFFIRMED.



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

Date Signed: April 10, 2014

Date Mailed: April 10, 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

ZB/tlf

2014-31228/ZB

cc:

