

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**



Reg. No.: 2014-34518  
Issue No.: 1008  
Case No.:   
Hearing Date: May 14, 2014  
County: Oakland(4)

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Carmen G. Fahie**

**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, telephone hearing was held on Wednesday, May 14, 2014, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included the Claimant. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included , PATH.

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly  denied Claimant's case for:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Family Independence Program (FIP)? | <input type="checkbox"/> State Disability Assistance (SDA)? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food Assistance Program (FAP)?                | <input type="checkbox"/> Child Development and Care (CDC)?  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Assistance (MA)?                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Direct Support Services (DSS)?     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Medical Assistance (AMP)?               | <input type="checkbox"/> State SSI Payments (SSP)?          |

**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:  FIP benefits.
2. On March 12, 2014, the Department  denied Claimant's application due to failure to participate in the PATH program.
3. On March 12, 2014, the Department sent Claimant/Claimant's Authorized Representative (AR) its decision.
4. On April 7, 2014, Claimant/Claimant's Authorized Hearing Representative (AHR) filed a hearing request, protesting the Department's actions.

**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, PL 104-193, and 42 USC 601 to 679c. The Department (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers FIP pursuant to MCL 400.10 and 400.57a and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3101 to .3131.

Additionally, the Claimant applied for FIP benefits on February 6, 2014. Department Exhibit 4. The Department had referred the Claimant to the PATH program as a condition of receiving FIP benefits. The Claimant was noncompliant with the PATH program on March 6, 2014, because she failed to complete her FAST survey within 30 days. Department Exhibit 5-6.

The Claimant was pregnant and delivered her baby on February 14, 2014, which resulted in a two (2) month deferral from PATH. However, the Claimant was still required to complete the FAST survey within 30 days of her application. The Claimant called her Department Caseworker on February 11, 2014 where she was informed of the deferral, but there was a misunderstanding between the Department Caseworker and the Claimant. The Claimant thought that she did not have to do anything related to the PATH. She did turn other required verifications, but did not complete her FAST survey. BAM 110, 115, and 130. BEM 228 and 233A.

Based on the evidence and testimony available during the hearing, the Department's determination that the Claimant did not have good cause for PATH noncompliance with the PATH program is not reasonable. The Department has not established that it acted properly when it denied the Claimant's FIP application for noncompliance with the PATH program.

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 denied the Claimant's FIP application because she failed to complete the FAST survey in 30 days from her application when she was deferred from PATH.

**DECISION AND ORDER**

Accordingly, the Department's decision is  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. Initiate a redetermination of the Claimant's eligibility for FIP by resending the FAST survey and having the Claimant complete.
2. Provide the Claimant with written notification of the Department's revised eligibility determination.
3. Issue the Claimant any retroactive benefits she/he may be eligible to receive, if any

*Carmen G. Fahie*

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Carmen G. Fahie  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Maura Corrigan, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: 5/20/14

Date Mailed: 5/21/14

**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.

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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

CGF/tb

cc:

