

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

██████████
██████████
██████████

Reg. No.: 14-000880
Issue No.: 1008
Case No.: ██████████
Hearing Date: May 21, 2014
County: Wayne (18-Taylor)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Michael J. Bennane

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 May 21, 2014, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included Claimant. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included ██████████

ISSUE

Did the Department properly deny Claimant's application for Family Independence Program (FIP) 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 applied for cash assistance through the FIP program.
2. On March 3, 2014, Claimant was referred to PATH for orientation.
3. On March 4, 2014, Claimant left PATH without a valid explanation.
4. On March 4, 2014, Claimant returned to PATH with a physician's note excusing her from "hard work" for the period of March 4, 2014, through April 3, 2014.
5. On March 10, 2014, Claimant provided the Department with a medical needs form stating that she had a chronic ongoing illness and that medical treatment would be required for her lifetime.
6. On March 28, 2014, the Department sent Claimant a notice of case action denying her application for FIP effective March 16, 2014.

7. On April 3, 2014, Claimant provided the Department with a completed Medical Needs – PATH form stating that she could not work until August 2, 2014.
8. On April 3, 2014, Claimant requested a hearing to protest the denial of her FIP application.

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 Family Independence Program (FIP) was established pursuant to the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-193, and 42 USC 601 to 679c. The Department (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers FIP pursuant to 45 CFR 233-260, MCL 400.10, the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1-.119b, and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3101 to .3131.

At the hearing, testimony and documentation provided by the Department shows that it wasn't until April 3, 2014, that Claimant provided the Department with the proper documentation from her physician excusing her from PATH activities during the time period in question.

After reviewing the documentation provided at the hearing, this Administrative Law Judge finds that Claimant did not provide the Department with the proper medical documentation excusing her from PATH activities until after the Department had already denied her application effective March 16, 2014.

Department policy demands that work eligible individuals participate in PATH. BEM 230A (October 2013).

Although Claimant eventually provided the Department with documentation that would have allowed her to not participate in PATH, that documentation was not provided until after the Department had denied Claimant's FIP application.


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 the Department

- acted in accordance with Department policy when it denied Claimant's FIP application.
- did not act in accordance with Department policy when it .
- failed to satisfy its burden of showing that it acted in accordance with Department policy when it .

DECISION AND ORDER

Accordingly, the Department's decision is

AFFIRMED.
 REVERSED.
 AFFIRMED IN PART with respect to _____ and REVERSED IN PART with respect to _____



Michael J. Bennane
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: **6/3/2014**

Date Mailed: **6/3/2014**

MJB / pf

NOTICE OF APPEAL: A party may appeal this Hearing Decision in the circuit court in the county in which he/she resides, or the circuit court in Ingham County, within 30 days of the receipt date.

A party may request a rehearing or reconsideration of this Hearing Decision from the Michigan Administrative Hearing System (MAHS) within 30 days of the mailing date of this Hearing Decision, or MAHS may order a rehearing or reconsideration on its own motion.

MAHS may grant a party's Request for Rehearing or Reconsideration 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 party requesting a rehearing or reconsideration 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 this Hearing Decision is mailed.

A written request may be faxed or mailed to MAHS. If submitted by fax, 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

CC:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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