

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

IN THE MATTER OF:



Reg. No.: 14-001427
Issue No.: 3002
Case No.:
Hearing Date: May 28, 2013
County: Grand Traverse

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 28, 2014, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included the Claimant. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included , APSup.

ISSUE

Due to a failure to comply with the verification requirements, did the Department properly close Claimant's case for:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Independence Program (FIP)? | <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Medical Program (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)? |

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the competent, material, and substantial evidence on the whole record, including testimony of witnesses, finds as material fact:

1. Claimant received: FAP benefits.
2. Claimant was required to submit requested verification by March 3, 2014.
3. On April 1, 2014, the Department closed Claimant's case.
4. On April 1, 2014, the Department sent Claimant/Claimant's Authorized Representative (AR) notice of its action.

5. On April 25, 2014, Claimant/Claimant's Authorized Hearing Representative (AHR) 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 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 Claimant was a recipient of FAP. On February 11, 2014, the Department Caseworker sent the Claimant a Redetermination Application for written verification of that was due March 3, 2014. Department Exhibit 1A-1E. The Claimant failed to provide the required verification that due on March 3, 2014. As a result, the Department Caseworker sent the Claimant a notice on April 1, 2014 that FAP would be ending on March 31, 2014 due to failure to provide verification. BAM 210 and 600.

During the hearing, the Claimant stated that he did not get the Redetermination Application sent by the Department on February 11, 2014. The Department Caseworker stated that it was sent to the Claimant's [REDACTED], [REDACTED], MI [REDACTED], which is the wrong zip code. The correct zip code provided by the Claimant was [REDACTED], which is the zip code for [REDACTED] Department Exhibit 2. The mail was not returned to the Department, but the Claimant testified that he did not receive it either. Presently, the Claimant is using his physical address of [REDACTED], [REDACTED], MI [REDACTED].

The Department has not met their burden that the Claimant's FAP case should be closed because the Claimant failed to provide the required verification to determine continued FAP eligibility because the Redetermination Application was sent to the wrong zip code.

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 failed to satisfy its burden of showing that it acted in accordance with Department policy when it closed the Claimant's FAP case because the Claimant failed to provide the required verification to determine continued FAP eligibility because the Redetermination Application was sent to the wrong zip code.

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 FAP by sending a new Redetermination application to the Claimant's physical address of 2265 Gregory Lane, Kingsley, MI 49649 and determine FAP eligibility retroactive to April 1, 2014.
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

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

Date Signed: 6/6/14

Date Mailed: 6/6/14

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 Claimant;
- 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

CGF/tb

cc:

