

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

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

Reg. No.: 2014-34315  
Issue No(s): 1007, 5001  
Case No.: ██████████  
Hearing Date: June 11, 2014  
County: Macomb (50-20)

**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 June 11, 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 reduce Claimant's Family Independence Program(FIP) benefits and deny her State Emergency Relief (SER) application?

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the competent, material, and substantial evidence on the whole record, finds as material fact:

1. On March 13, 2014, Claimant applied for SER for a water heater.
2. On March 17, 2014, the Department sent Claimant a State Emergency Relief Decision Notice informing Claimant that her SER application had been denied.
3. On March 25, 2014, Claimant requested a hearing to protest the denial of her SER application and to protest the amount she received in FIP 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 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.

The State Emergency Relief (SER) program is established by the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1-.119b. The SER program is administered by the Department (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) pursuant to MCL 400.10 and Mich Admin Code, R 400.7001 through R 400.7049.

**SER**

The Department provided a copy of an SER copayment detail budget (Exhibit 3) showing that Claimant's income is equal to or greater than the amount needed to resolve the emergency. BEM 103 (October 2013).

**FIP**

At the hearing, the Department argued that Claimant received an average of \$91.57 for the months of September through November in 2013. The Department then subtracted this amount directly from the Claimant's FIP benefits.

Department policy dictates that the amount in question minus \$50.00 should be added to Claimant's FIP budget calculation. In this instance, \$41.57 should have been added to Claimant's income when calculating Claimant's FIP benefits. BEM 503 (January 2014); BEM 518 (July 2013).

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 SER application.
- did not act in accordance with Department policy when it directly subtracted Claimant's child support payments from her FIP benefits.
- 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 the Department's denial of Claimant's SER application and REVERSED IN PART with respect to the Department's calculation of Claimant's FIP benefits.
- 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. Recalculate Claimant's FIP benefits utilizing policy referenced in this order.

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

Date Signed: June 30, 2014

Date Mailed: June 30, 2014

**NOTICE OF APPEAL:** A party may appeal this Hearing Decision in the circuit court in the county in which he/she resides or has its principal place of business in the State, 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.

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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

MJB/pf

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