

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

██████████
██████████
██

Reg. No.: 14-005043
Issue No.: 3001
Case No.: ██████████
Hearing Date: July 24, 2014
County: MACOMB (36)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Jacquelyn A. McClinton

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 July 24, 2014, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included Claimant. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included ██████████ ██████████, Hearing Facilitator.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly determine Claimant's eligibility for 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 is an ongoing FAP recipient.
2. On June 3, 2014, Claimant submitted a Redetermination.
3. On June 3, 2014, the Department sent Claimant a Notice of Case Action notifying her that her FAP benefits would be reduced based on updated income information.
4. On June 20, 2014, Claimant filed a Request for Hearing disputing 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), 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 273. The Department (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers FAP pursuant to MCL 400.10, the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1-.119b, and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3001 to .3015.

Additionally, all countable earned and unearned income available to the client must be considered in determining the Claimant's eligibility for program benefits. BEM 500 (January 2014), pp. 1 – 4. In this case, the Claimant requested a hearing protesting the amount of her FAP benefits as she believed \$15.00 per month was insufficient to meet her dietary needs. Claimant completed a Redetermination on June 3, 2014. Prior to the Redetermination, Claimant had been receiving \$125.00 per month in FAP benefits. On the Redetermination, Claimant indicated that she worked at [REDACTED]. Following the receipt of this information, the Department completed a work number and secured Claimant's actual income. On June 23, 2014, the Department sent Claimant a Notice of Case Action notifying her that her FAP benefits would be reduced to \$15.00 per month.

The Department presented a FAP net income budget showing Claimant's gross income as \$1,208.00. The gross income amount used was based on Claimant's May 2, 2014, May 9, 2014, May 16, 2014 and May 23, 2014 pay. Claimant confirmed that she has a group size of one. Claimant indicated that she was not a senior, disabled or a veteran. Based on Claimant's circumstances, she was eligible for the following deductions from his gross income under Department policy:

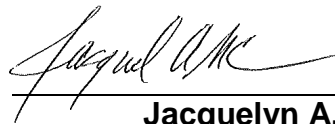
- a standard deduction of \$151 based on her one-person group size RFT 255 (December 2013), p. 1; BEM 556, (July 2013) p. 3; and
- an excess shelter deduction of \$146.00 which is based on a \$553.00 heat and utility standard deduction. RFT, p. 1.

Claimant confirmed that she did not pay child support and did not have any dependent care expenses. Using a gross monthly income amount of \$1,208.00 and taking the appropriate deductions, Claimant's monthly net income amount is \$669.00. Based on the information available to the Department at the time the Redetermination was submitted, it properly determined that Claimant was entitled to a FAP benefit amount of \$15.00 per month. However, during the hearing, Claimant indicated that she did not pay utility costs. Therefore, Claimant is no longer entitled to a heat and utility standard.

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 policy when it determined that Claimant was eligible for FAP benefits in the amount of \$15.00 per month.

DECISION AND ORDER

Accordingly, the Department's decision is **AFFIRMED**.



Jacquelyn A. McClinton
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: **7/28/2014**

Date Mailed: **7/28/2014**

JAM/cl

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.

