

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 14-005274  
Issue No.: 1001  
Case No.: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: August 28, 2014  
County: Cass

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Kevin Scully

**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 August 28, 2014, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly close the Claimant's 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. The Claimant was an ongoing Family Independence Program (FIP) recipient.
2. The Department closed the Claimant's Family Independence Program (FIP) benefits effective June 25, 2014.
3. On June 10, 2014, the Department received the Claimant's request for a hearing protesting the closure of his cash assistance.

**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 Disability Assistance (SDA) program is established by the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1-.119b. The Department of Human Services (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers the SDA program pursuant to 42 CFR 435, MCL 400.10 and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3151-.3180.

The Claimant and her husband requested cash assistance based on disability but the Department denied their request after determining they are not disabled. The Claimant reported that they provide care for a minor child in their home, and the Department approved the Claimant for Family Independence Program (FIP) benefits.

Later, the Department discovered that the Claimant does not fit the Department's definition of the primary caretaker of a minor child because that child spends less than half of the nights each month on average over a 12 month period. Therefore, the Department determined that the Claimant is not eligible for Family Independence Program (FIP) benefits.


A Family Independence Program (FIP) benefit group must include a dependent child who lives with a legal parent, stepparent or other qualifying caretaker. Department of Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) 210 (July 1, 2013), p 1.

The Claimant does not dispute that they do not meet the non-financial requirements of participating in the Family Independence Program (FIP). The Claimant has applied for assistance based on disability, but the Department has not made a final determination of disability for their most recent application for benefits.

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 closed the Claimant's Family Independence Program (FIP) benefits. There has been not negative action at this time with respect to cash benefits based on disability, also known as the State Disability Assistance (SDA) program.

**DECISION AND ORDER**

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

  
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Kevin Scully  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Maura Corrigan, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: **8/29/2014**

Date Mailed: **8/29/2014**

KS/las

**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:

