

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**



Reg. No.: 201430993  
Issue No(s): 2009  
Case No.: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: July 2, 2014  
County: Wayne (41)

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Robert J. Chavez

**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; 42 CFR 431.200 to 431.250; and 45 CFR 205.10. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on July 2, 2014, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED], MCW.

**ISSUE**

Whether the Department properly determined that Claimant was not disabled for purposes of the Medical Assistance (MA) and/or State Disability Assistance (SDA) benefit programs?

**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 MA-P and retroactive MA-P on October 25, 2013 with retroactive MA to July, 2013.
2. Claimant is currently 50 years old.
3. Claimant reached the age of 50 on February 1, 2014.
4. Claimant is not currently working.

5. On November 4, 2013, MRT denied MA-P and retroactive MA-P, stating that Claimant could do other work.
6. On November 12, 2013, Claimant was sent a notice of case action denying MA-P and retroactive MA-P.
7. On January 28, 2014, Claimant requested a hearing.
8. On May 16, 2014, SHRT denied MA-P and retroactive MA-P, stating that Claimant could perform other work.
9. On July 2, 2014, a hearing was held before the Administrative Law Judge.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

The Medical Assistance (MA) program is established by the Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 USC 1396-1396w-5, and is implemented by 42 CFR 400.200 to 1008.59. The Department of Human Services (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers the MA program pursuant to MCL 400.10 and MCL 400.105.

The State Disability Assistance (SDA) program, which provides financial assistance for disabled persons, was established by 2004 PA 344. The Department administers the SDA program pursuant to MCL 400.10 *et seq.* and Mich Admin Code, Rules 400.3151 – 400.3180. Department policies are found in BAM, BEM, and RFT. A person is considered disabled for SDA purposes if the person has a physical or mental impairment which meets federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) disability standards for at least ninety days. Receipt of SSI benefits based on disability or blindness, or the receipt of MA benefits based on disability or blindness, automatically qualifies an individual as disabled for purposes of the SDA program.

Federal regulations require that the Department use the same operative definition of the term “disabled” as is used by the Social Security Administration for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) under Title XVI of the Social Security Act. 42 CFR 435.540(a).

Disability is defined as the inability to do any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment which can be expected to result in death or which has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months. 20 CFR 416.905

This is determined by a five-step sequential evaluation process where current work activity, the severity and duration of the impairment(s), statutory listings of medical impairments, residual functional capacity, and vocational factors (i.e., age, education, and work experience) are considered. These factors are always considered in order according to the five step sequential evaluation, and when a determination can be made

at any step as to the Claimant's disability status, no analysis of subsequent steps are necessary. 20 CFR 416.920

Furthermore, Department policy at BEM 260 states that if a Claimant has been found eligible for either SSI or RSDI based upon a finding of disability, the person meets the Department's MA disability criteria. No other evidence is required to establish disability. In the present case, the Claimant was found by the Social Security Administration to be eligible for RSDI/SSI benefits based upon disability, and has presented prima facie evidence of the same. This disability was found by the Social Security Administration to have an onset date of February 1, 2014. Therefore, the Administrative Law Judge finds that the Claimant met the Department's definition of disabled for the purposes of MA-P as of that date.

This therefore leaves the question as to whether Claimant is eligible for benefits retroactively to October, 2013, the date of application, and July, 2013, the date of retroactive benefits.

The SSA found Claimant disabled as of their 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, meaning that Claimant was found capable of performing sedentary work, and transferred to an older age category on that date, upon which they were found disabled.

If a Claimant is within a few days to a few months of reaching an older age category, and using the older age category would result in a determination or decision that they are disabled, the ALJ must consider whether to use the older age category after evaluating the overall impact of all the factors in the case. 20 CFR 416.93 (b).

Given Claimant's history of strokes, and long history of cardiac insufficiencies, including an implanted ICD, the undersigned holds that using the older age category would be appropriate in this matter, as Claimant's conditions are both chronic and require consistent treatment.

As such, Claimant, at the time of the application, was within a few months of the next age category. An individual who is closely approaching advanced age, with a work history and education similar to the Claimant's and is limited to sedentary work must be found disabled under rule 201.09.

As such, Claimant has been disabled for the purposes of the current MA application, with retroactivity to 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 Claimant  disabled  not disabled for purposes of the MA and/or SDA benefit program.

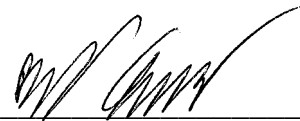
**DECISION AND ORDER**

Accordingly, the Department's determination is  AFFIRMED  REVERSED.

THE DEPARTMENT IS ORDERED TO INITIATE 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. The Department is ORDERED to process Claimant's MA-P application of October 25, 2013 and award all benefits that Claimant is entitled to receive under the appropriate regulations.

2. The Department is ORDERED to conduct a review of this case in August, 2015.



**Robert J. Chavez**  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Maura Corrigan, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: August 7, 2014

Date Mailed: August 7, 2014

**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 client;
- 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

2014-30993/RJC

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

RJC/tm

cc:

