

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 14-002315  
Issue No.: 1010  
Case No.: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: September 4, 2014  
County: WAYNE-49

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Lynn M. Ferris**

**HEARING DECISION**

Upon Claimant's request for a hearing, this matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9 and 400.37, and Title 45 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), particularly 45 CFR 205.10. After due notice, a three-way telephone hearing was held on September 04, 2014, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included the Claimant. Participants on behalf of the Department included [REDACTED], FIS.

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly determine that Claimant has exceeded the State 48-month lifetime limit on receipt of 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. Claimant was an ongoing recipient of FIP benefits.
2. On April 23, 2014, the Department notified Claimant that  the FIP case would close.
3. On May 5, 2014, Claimant filed a timely request for hearing, disputing the Department's action.

## CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

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. 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 FIP benefit program is not an entitlement. BEM 234 (7/1/13), p. 1. Time limits are essential to establishing the temporary nature of aid as well as communicating the FIP philosophy to support a family's movement to self-sufficiency. BEM 234, p. 1. Effective October 1, 2011, BEM 234 restricts the total cumulative months that an individual may receive FIP benefits to a lifetime limit of 48 months for State-funded FIP cases for which no months were exempt. BEM 234, p. 4.

The 48-month lifetime limit for State-funded FIP cases allows exemption months in which an individual does not receive a count towards the individual's 48-month lifetime limit. BEM 234, p. 3. Exemption months are months the individual is deferred from the Partnership.Accountability.Training.Hope. (PATH) program for (i) domestic violence; (ii) being 65 years of age or older; (iii) a verified disability or long-term incapacity lasting longer than 90 days (including establishing incapacity); or (iv) being a spouse or parent who provides care for a spouse or child with verified disabilities living in the home. BEM 234, p. 4. FIP benefits received prior to October 1, 2006, are **not** State-funded. BEM 234, pp. 3.

Once an individual reaches a FIP time limit and the FIP closes, the individual is not eligible for FIP if the individual reapplies and meets an exemption criteria. BEM 234, p. 7.

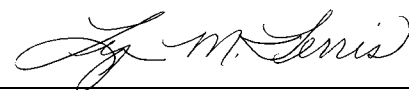
In the present case, the Department closed the Claimant's FIP case by Notice of Case Action dated April 23, 2014 due to reaching the 48 month State of Michigan time limit for eligibility to receive FIP benefits. Exhibit 1. The Department presented a Michigan FIP Time Limit Counter which demonstrated that as of June 1, 2014, the Claimant had reached the 48 month limit. Exhibit 2. The Claimant did not dispute the Time Limit Counter, which also noted a deferral due to domestic violence in 2010 for 10 months. The Claimant argued that because she was compliant with the PATH program and had been seeking employment, her FIP case should not be closed. Unfortunately, the policy set forth in BEM 234 was properly followed and the 48 month receipt of benefits was demonstrated; thus, it must be determined that the Department correctly applied and followed the Department policy when it closed the Claimant's FIP case.

The Administrative Law Judge, based upon 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 FIP eligibility for exceeding the State time limit on receipt of FIP benefits.

### **DECISION AND ORDER**

Accordingly, the Department's FIP eligibility decision is  AFFIRMED.



---

LYNN M. FERRIS  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Maura Corrigan, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: September 5, 2014

Date Mailed: September 5, 2014

LMF/tm

**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:

