

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

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██████████
██████████████████

Reg. No.: 14-008188
Issue Nos.: 1000, 2000, 3008, 5000
Case No.: ██████████
Hearing Date: September 4, 2014
County: Wayne (17-Greenfield/Joy)

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 September 04, 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 process an increase in Claimant's 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 was an ongoing recipient of FAP benefits.
2. On April 16, 2014, Claimant notified the Department that she was fired from her job on April 7, 2014.
3. On May 30, 2014, the Department sent Claimant a notice of case action informing her that her FAP benefits had been increased.
4. On June 11, 2014, the Department sent Claimant a notice of case action informing her that her Family Independence Program (FIP) cash benefits had been approved and that her FAP benefits were reduced.
5. On July 18, 2014, Claimant requested a hearing to protest the Department's delay in increasing her FAP 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 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.

The Medical Assistance (MA) program is established by Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 USC 1396-1396w-5; 42 USC 1315; the Affordable Care Act of 2010, the collective term for the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Pub. L. No. 111-148, as amended by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, Pub. L. No. 111-152; and 42 CFR 430.10-.25. The Department (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers the MA program pursuant to 42 CFR 435, MCL 400.10, and MCL 400.105-.112k.

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.

Medical Assistance (MA)

At the hearing, Claimant testified that the Department had resolved the problem with her MA benefits and did not want to address this issue in this hearing. Therefore, Claimant's request for a hearing concerning her MA benefits is DISMISSED.

State Emergency Relief (SER)

In addition, Claimant also testified that she now understood why the Department had denied her request for SER benefits and did not wish to pursue this issue in this hearing.

FAP

Documentation as well as Departmental testimony provided at the hearing shows that Claimant notified the Department on April 16, 2014, that she had been fired from her job on April 7, 2014.

Department policy demands that an

“increase in benefits must be effective no later than the first allotment issued 10 days after the date the change was reported, provided any necessary verification was returned by the due date.” BAM 220 (January 2014), p. 6.

In the instant case, the Department sent Claimant a verification checklist on May 5, 2014, requesting verifications with proofs due by May 15, 2014.

This verification checklist was sent to Claimant five days after her FAP benefits should have been increased and cannot affect an action that should have been taken by the Department five days before the request for verifications.

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 .
- did not act in accordance with Department policy when it failed to increase Claimant's FAP benefits in Claimant's first allotment issued 10 days after the date the change was reported.
- 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.
- DISMISSED IN PART with respect to MA, FIP and SER benefits and REVERSED IN PART with respect to FAP 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. Return to May 1, 2014, increase Claimant's FAP benefits retroactive to the date and supplement for any missed benefits.



Michael J. Bennane

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

Date Signed: **9/8/2014**

Date Mailed: **9/9/2014**

MJB / pf

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:

