

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 14-009694
Issue No.: 3008
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: September 16, 2014
County: SSPC-WEST

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 September 16, 2014, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included [REDACTED]. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED].

ISSUE

Did the Department properly determine the Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefit amount?

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the competent, material, and substantial evidence on the whole record, finds as material fact:

1. On July 1, 2014, the Claimant applied for Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits.
2. The Claimant receives monthly unemployment compensation benefits in the gross monthly amount of \$ [REDACTED].
3. On July 28, 2014, the Department notified the Claimant that it would reduce his monthly allotment of Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits to \$ [REDACTED] effective August 1, 2014.
4. On August 11, 2014, the Department received the Claimant's request for a hearing, protesting the reduction of his Food Assistance Program (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 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.

All earned and unearned income available to the Claimant is countable. Earned income means income received from another person or organization or from self-employment for duties that were performed for compensation or profit. Unearned income means all income that is not earned, including but not limited to funds received from the Family Independence Program (FIP), State Disability Assistance (SDA), Child Development and Care (CDC), Medicaid (MA), Social Security Benefits (RSDI/SSI), Veterans Administration (VA), Unemployment Compensation Benefits (UCB), Adult Medical Program (AMA), alimony, and child support payments. The amount counted may be more than the client actually receives because the gross amount is used prior to any deductions. Department of Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) 500 (July 1, 2014).

All income is converted to a standard monthly amount. If the client is paid weekly, the Department multiplies the average weekly amount by 4.3. If the client is paid every other week, the Department multiplies the average bi-weekly amount by 2.15. Department of Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) 505 (July 1, 2013), pp 6-7.

On July 1, 2014, the Claimant applied for Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits as a group of one. The Claimant receives monthly unemployment compensation benefits in the gross monthly amount of \$ [REDACTED] which was determined by multiplying his gross bi-weekly benefit by the 2.15 conversion factor. The Claimant reported a monthly child support expense of \$ [REDACTED]. The Claimant reported medical expenses, but the Department only considers the medical expenses of disabled or senior food assistance recipients. Department of Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) 554 (October 1, 2014), p 8. The Claimant's adjusted gross income of \$ [REDACTED] was determined by subtracting the standard \$ [REDACTED] deduction and the Claimant's monthly child support expense from his total income.

The Claimant has a monthly \$ [REDACTED] shelter expense, which includes heat and therefore he is not entitled to the standard heat and utility credit. The Claimant is responsible for non-heat electricity expenses and telephone expenses. The Claimant's excess shelter deduction of \$ [REDACTED] was determined by adding his monthly shelter expense to the standard non-heat electricity deduction of \$ [REDACTED] and the standard telephone deduction of \$ [REDACTED] and subtracting 50% of his adjusted gross income.


The Claimant testified that automobile and insurance expenses should be included when determining his Food Assistance Program (FAP) eligibility but these expenses are not countable under current Department policy. BEM 554.

The Claimant's net income of \$ [REDACTED] was determined by subtracting his excess shelter deduction from his adjusted gross income. A group of one with a net income of \$ [REDACTED] is entitled to a \$ [REDACTED] monthly allotment of Food Assistance Program (FAP).

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 determined the amount of Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits that the Claimant is eligible to receive.

DECISION AND ORDER

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



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

Date Signed: **9/17/2014**

Date Mailed: **9/17/2014**

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:

