

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 14-014971  
Issue No.: FAP  
Case No.: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: December 03, 2014  
County: WASHTENAW (DISTRICT 20)

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Colleen Lack

**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 December 3, 2014, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included [REDACTED], the Claimant. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED] - [REDACTED] Family Independence Manager, and [REDACTED], Hearing Facilitator.

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly close Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) and Child Development and Care (CDC) cases?

**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 and CDC benefits.
2. On July 19, 2014, the Department closed the FAP and CDC cases based on a failure to complete the re-determination and a Notice of Case Action was issued to Claimant.
3. On October 21, 2013, Claimant filed a request for hearing contesting the Department's action.
4. The Department has subsequently discovered that some things for Claimant's case were incorrectly put in the trash.
5. The Department is still in the process of re-determining Claimant's eligibility for FAP and CDC.

**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.

The Child Development and Care (CDC) program is established by Titles IVA, IVE and XX of the Social Security Act, 42 USC 601-619, 670-679c, and 1397-1397m-5; the Child Care and Development Block Grant of 1990, PL 101-508, 42 USC 9858 to 9858q; and the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, PL 104-193. The program is implemented by 45 CFR 98.1-99.33. The Department administers the program pursuant to MCL 400.10 and provides services to adults and children pursuant to MCL 400.14(1) and Mich Admin Code, R 400.5001-.5020.

Additionally, a Claimant must cooperate with the local office in determining initial and ongoing eligibility, including completion of necessary forms, and must completely and truthfully answer all questions on forms and in interviews. BAM 105.

Verification is usually required upon application or redetermination and for a reported change affecting eligibility or benefit level. Verifications are considered timely if received by the date they are due. The Department must allow a client 10 calendar days (or other time limit specified in policy) to provide the requested verification. The Department worker must tell the client what verification is required, how to obtain it, and the due date. The client must obtain required verification, but the Department must assist if the client needs and requests help. If neither the client nor the Department can obtain verification despite a reasonable effort, the Department worker should use the best available information. If no evidence is available, the Department worker is to use their best judgment. The Department is to send a case action notice when the client indicates refusal to provide a verification, or the time period given has elapsed. BAM 130.

For FAP, benefits stop at the end of the benefit period unless a redetermination is completed and a new benefit period is certified. A redetermination packet is considered complete when all of the sections of the redetermination form including the signature section are completed. If a client files an application for redetermination before the end of the benefit period, but fails to take a required action, the case is denied at the end of the benefit period. BAM 210.

In this case, Claimant's CDC case was due for redetermination in July 2014. The hearing summary stated that on July 19, 2014, the Department closed the FAP and CDC cases based on a failure to complete the re-determination.

Claimant credibly testified that she did everything that was asked of her and never failed to submit requested information. This was supported by the Department's acknowledgement that some things for Claimant's case were incorrectly put in the trash.

Further, the Department stated they are trying to correct errors they have discovered with this case. The Department indicated they are still in the process of re-determining Claimant's eligibility for FAP and CDC, which has been delayed, in part, due to a worker being on medical leave.

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 did not act in accordance with Department policy when it closed Claimant's FAP and CDC cases.

### **DECISION AND ORDER**

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

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. Re-determine Claimant's eligibility for FAP and CDC retroactive to the effective date of the closure in accordance with Department policy.
2. Issue Claimant any supplement she may thereafter be due.



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

Date Signed: **12/10/2014**

Date Mailed: **12/10/2014**

CL/hj

**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 48909-8139

cc:

