

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 14-004479
Issue No.: 3006
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: November 25, 2014
County: Genesee-District 6

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Kevin Scully

HEARING DECISION

Upon a hearing request by the Department of Human Services (Department) to establish an overissuance (OI) of benefits to Respondent, this matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9, 400.43a, and 24.201, et seq., and Mich Admin Code, R 400.941, and in accordance with 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, telephone hearing was held on November 25, 2014, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of the Department included [REDACTED].

Participants on behalf of Respondent included [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

ISSUE

Did Respondent receive an OI of 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. Respondent was a recipient of FAP benefits from the Department.
2. The Department alleges Respondent received a FAP OI during the period December 1, 2013, through May 31, 2014, due to Respondent's error.
3. The Department alleges that Respondent received a \$ [REDACTED] OI that is still due and owing to the Department.

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), and Department of Human Services Reference Tables Manual (RFT).

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.

Clients must report changes in circumstance that potentially affect eligibility or benefit amount within 10 days of receiving the first payment reflecting the change. Department of Human Services Bridges Assistance Manual (BAM) 105 (October 1, 2014).

Income reporting requirements are limited to the following:

- Earned income:
 - Starting or stopping employment.
 - Changing employers.
 - Change in rate of pay.
 - Change in work hours of more than five hours per week that is expected to continue for more than one month.
- Unearned income:
 - Starting or stopping a source of unearned income.
 - Change in gross monthly income of more than \$50 since the last reported change.
- Other changes:
 - Persons in the home.
 - Marital status.
 - Address and shelter cost changes that result from the move.
 - Vehicles.
 - Assets.
 - Child support expenses paid.
 - Health or hospital coverage and premiums.
 - Day care needs or providers. BAM 105.

When a client group receives more benefits than it is entitled to receive, DHS must attempt to recoup the overissuance. Department of Human Services Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM) 700 (May 1, 2014), p 1.

In this case, the Respondent was a Food Assistance Program (FAP) recipient from December 1, 2013, through May 31, 2014. A member of the Respondent's benefit group was employed and received earned income during this period. The Department did not consider this income when determining the Respondent's eligibility for Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits. If the Department had considered this earned income during this period, the Respondent would have been eligible for a lesser amount of Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits. Department policy requires the overissuance of benefits to be recouped.


The Respondent testified that he had a great deal of difficulty with his caseworker. The Respondent testified that he had not intentions of concealing his income from the Department, and that more open communication between himself and his caseworker would have prevented his overissuance.

This Administrative Law Judge finds that while there is no evidence of fraud on the part of the Respondent, the Department presented substantial evidence that he received Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits that he was not entitled to. The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, finds that the Department did establish a FAP benefit OI to Respondent totaling \$ [REDACTED]

DECISION AND ORDER

Accordingly, the Department is **AFFIRMED**.

The Department is **ORDERED** to initiate collection procedures for a \$ [REDACTED] OI in accordance with Department policy.



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

Date Signed: **12/2/2014**

Date Mailed: **12/2/2014**

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:

