

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 14-009511
Issue No.: 3004
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: September 11, 2014
County: Oakland-District 3 (Walled Lake)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Darryl Johnson

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 11, 2014, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included Claimant's mother and guardian, [REDACTED]. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included Eligibility Specialist [REDACTED].

ISSUE

Did the Department properly deny Claimant's application for 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 previously applied for cash assistance and medical assistance from the Department.
2. On July 9, 2014, Claimant's mother/guardian reported a change in Claimant's income using the Department's Bridges online portal, and believed she had submitted an application for FAP benefits through Bridges.
3. The Department processed the changes that were reported, but did not process a FAP application because no application was received.
4. On August 7, 2014, the Department received the Claimant's hearing request.

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.

BAM 110 (7/1/14) provides instructions to the Department for processing applications. "A request for assistance may be in person, by mail, telephone, email or online. The requester has the right to receive the appropriate application form." (Id at 1.) "Note: A MI Bridges online application is considered the same as the DHS-1171¹."

At page 2, BAM 110 says:

Encourage the person to complete the entire application that day. Persons who cannot complete the entire application should complete the DHS-1171, Filing Form, to protect their application date. BAM 105 lists the minimum information to file an application. A DHS-1171, Filing Form is not acceptable for Medicaid.

For a **request by letter or telephone**, mail the application by the end of the **next workday**. If the application is **not** returned, the requester must be contacted according to local office procedures.

Applicants must be informed of their option to obtain a DHS-1171, Assistance Application, which includes a filing form, at the following web site:
www.michigan.gov/dhs-forms.

At page 7, it goes on to say:

An application or filing form, with the minimum information, must be registered on Bridges **unless** the client is already active for that program(s); see **REGISTERING APPLICATIONS** in this item.

If there is no record on Bridges, the system assigns individual ID number(s) and an application number.

After Claimant's mother/guardian attempted to apply for FAP in bridges, it assigned her an application number, and it showed her application as pending. (Exhibit 1 Pages 2-3.)

¹ The DHS 1171 is the paper equivalent of the online application.

Claimant's mother understandably believed she had submitted an application on June 30, 2014, and that was borne out by the reported "pending" status as of July 9, 2014.

Claimant was subsequently approved for FAP as of August 7, 2014.

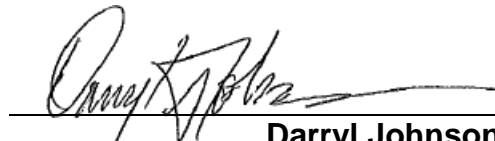
The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and for the reasons stated on the record, if any, finds that the Department failed to satisfy its burden of showing that it acted in accordance with Department policy when it did not process Claimant's June 30, 2014, application.

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. Redetermine Claimant's FAP benefit eligibility, effective June 30, 2014;
2. Issue a supplement to Claimant for any benefits improperly not issued.



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

Date Signed: **9/16/2014**

Date Mailed: **9/16/2014**

DTJ/jaf

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:

