

**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.: 14-010060
Issue No.: 3003
Case No.: ████████████████████
Hearing Date: September 17, 2014
County: WAYNE (57)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Jacquelyn A. McClinton

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 17, 2014, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included Claimant. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included ████████████████████, Assistance Payments Worker.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly close 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. The Department sent Claimant a Redetermination which was due on or before May 30, 2014.
2. Claimant returned the Redetermination prior to the due date.
3. The Department failed to timely enter receipt of the Redetermination into its computer system.
4. The Department closed Claimant's FAP benefits for failure to return the Redetermination effective June 1, 2014.
5. Claimant reapplied and was approved for FAP benefits in June 2014.

6. On August 21, 2014, Claimant filed a Request for Hearing to dispute the Department's actions.

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 Department is required to periodically redetermine an individual's eligibility for active programs. The redetermination process includes thorough review of all eligibility factors. BAM 210 (October 2013), p. 1. The Department sent a Redetermination to Claimant which was to be completed and returned by May 30, 2014. The Department acknowledged that the Redetermination was returned timely. However, the receipt of the Redetermination was not timely placed in the Department's computer system which caused Claimant's case to close effective June 1, 2014. Prior to the closure, Claimant had been receiving \$189.00.

Claimant reapplied for FAP benefits in June 2014 following the closure of her case and also requested a hearing to contest the closure. The Department approved Claimant's application for FAP benefits. However, Claimant only received a prorated amount of \$94.00 in FAP benefits based on the date of June 2014 application. The Department acknowledged that if it had not improperly closed Claimant's FAP benefits, she would have received \$189.00 in June 2014. Therefore, it is found that Claimant is entitled to a supplement in the amount of \$95.00 for June 2014. The Department testified and Claimant confirmed that she has been receiving \$189.00 in FAP benefits since July 1, 2014.

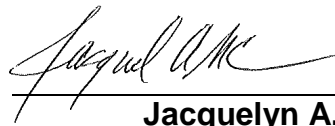
The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and for the reasons stated on the record, if any, finds that the Department did not act in accordance with policy when it closed Claimant's FAP benefits effective June 1, 2014 for failure to return the Redetermination.

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. Reinstate Claimant's FAP benefits effective June 1, 2014, ongoing; and
2. Issue FAP supplements to Claimant in the amount of \$95.00 for June 2014



Jacquelyn A. McClinton
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: **9/23/2014**

Date Mailed: **9/23/2014**

JAM / cl

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: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]