

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 14-011047  
Issue No.: 1008  
Case No.: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: October 02, 2014  
County: Ingham

**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 on October 2, 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 deny the Claimant's Family Independence Program (FIP) application for noncompliance with the Partnership. Accountability. Training. Hope. (PATH) program?

**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 14, 2014, the Claimant applied for Family Independence Program (FIP) benefits.
2. On July 14, 2014, the Department referred the Claimant to the Partnership. Accountability. Training. Hope. (PATH) program.
3. On August 5, 2014, the Department sent the Claimant a Verification Checklist (DHS-3503) requesting verification of pregnancy by August 15, 2014, which was necessary to determine whether she would be deferred from the Partnership. Accountability. Training. Hope. (PATH) program.
4. On August 7, 2014, the Claimant provided the Claimant with verification of her pregnancy.
5. On August 18, 2014, the Department notified the Claimant that had denied her Family Independence Program (FIP) application.

6. On August 18, 2014, the Department received the Claimant's request for a hearing, protesting the denial of her Family Independence Program (FIP) application.

### **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 Family Independence Program (FIP) was established pursuant to the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-193, and 42 USC 601 to 679c. The Department (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers FIP pursuant to 45 CFR 233-260, MCL 400.10, the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1-.119b, and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3101 to .3131.

Noncompliance by a Work Eligible Individual (WEI) while the application is pending results in group ineligibility. BEM 233A.

On July 14, 2014, the Claimant applied for Family Independence Program (FIP) benefits. On July 14, 2014, the Department referred the Claimant to the Partnership. Accountability. Training. Hope. (PATH) program as a condition of receiving cash assistance.

The Claimant reported to the Department that she was not capable of participating in the Partnership. Accountability. Training. Hope. (PATH) program due to her pregnancy. On August 7, 2014, the Claimant provided timely verification of her pregnancy.

The Department did not dispute that the Claimant provided timely verification of her pregnancy or that a person in the Claimant's circumstances is normally deferred from participation in the Partnership. Accountability. Training. Hope. (PATH) program.

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 denied the Claimant's


### **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. Reprocess the Claimant's July 14, 2014, application for assistance and initiate a determination of the Claimant's eligibility for the Family Independence Program (FIP).

2. Allow the Claimant a ten day period to provide the Department with any information necessary to determine her eligibility for Family Independence Program (FIP) benefits.
3. Provide the Claimant with a Notice of Case Action (DHS-1605) describing the Department's revised eligibility determination.
4. Issue the Claimant any retroactive benefits she may be eligible to receive, if any.

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

Date Signed: **10/7/2014**

Date Mailed: **10/7/2014**

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:

