

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 14-013085
Issue No.: 3008
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: November 05, 2014
County: Calhoun

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 November 5, 2014, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included [REDACTED]. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

ISSUE

Did the Department properly determine the Claimant's eligibility 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. The Claimant is an ongoing Food Assistance Program (FAP) recipient.
2. On September 24, 2014, the Department notified the Claimant that he was approved for a decreased allotment of Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits in the monthly amount of \$ [REDACTED].
3. On September 29, 2014, the Department received the Claimant's request for a hearing, protesting the amount of Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits he was approved for.

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.

A Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefit group that has a heating expense or contributes to the heating expense separate from rent, mortgage or condominium/maintenance payments is entitled to the standard heat and utility deduction when their eligibility for FAP benefits is determined. Department of Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) 554 (October 1, 2014), p 16. Before February 7, 2014, all Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefit groups received this credit regardless of whether their heat and utility expense was separate from their other shelter expenses. BEM 554.

In this case, the Claimant was an ongoing Food Assistance Program (FAP) recipient as a group of one when the Department initiated a routine review of his eligibility to receive continuing FAP benefits. The Claimant receives an adjusted gross income of \$ [REDACTED] which was determined by subtracting the standard \$ [REDACTED] deduction and his \$ [REDACTED] average child support expenses from his total gross monthly income. The Claimant did not dispute the Department's monthly income determination. The Claimant's excess shelter deduction of \$ [REDACTED] was determined by subtracting 50% of his adjusted gross income from his \$ [REDACTED] monthly shelter expense, which is his only verified and countable monthly shelter expenses.


The Claimant's net income of \$ [REDACTED] was determined by subtracting his excess shelter deduction from his adjusted gross income. A group of one with a net income of \$ [REDACTED] is entitled to a monthly Food Assistance Program (FAP) allotment of \$ [REDACTED].

The Claimant argued that it was unfair to reduce his benefits so drastically, but was unable to identify any specific failure by the Department to apply policy to his circumstances properly.

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 acted in accordance with Department policy when it determined the Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) allotment.

DECISION AND ORDER

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



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

Date Signed: **11/6/2014**

Date Mailed: **11/6/2014**

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:

