

**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.: 14-014279
Issue No.: 3008
Case No.: ██████████
Hearing Date: November 17, 2014
County: WAYNE (55)

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 November 17, 2014, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included Claimant. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included ██████████, Eligibility Specialist.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly determine 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. Claimant is an ongoing recipient of FAP benefits.
2. Claimant's FAP benefits decreased because he does not pay utility expenses.
3. In October 2014, the Department sent Claimant a Notice of Case Action notifying him that his FAP benefits would be reduced to \$16.00 per month effective November 1, 2014.
4. On October 14, 2014, Claimant filed a Request for Hearing disputing 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.

Additionally, all countable earned and unearned income available to the client must be considered in determining the Claimant's eligibility for program benefits. BEM 500 (July 2014), pp. 1 – 4. Claimant confirmed that he receives social security benefits in the amount of \$721.00 per month.

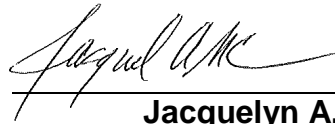
The Department presented a FAP net income budget showing Claimant's gross income as \$735.00 which included Claimant's State Supplemental Payments budgeted at \$14.00 per month. Claimant has a group size of one. Claimant is disabled. In order to receive the heat and utility standard for shelter expenses, Department policy requires clients to provide proof of utility payment. If clients are unable to do so, they are not eligible to receive the heat and utility standard. BEM (October 2014), pp. 14-19. Claimant verified that he does not currently pay any utility costs. As a result, Claimant was not entitled to a shelter deduction. Based on Claimant's circumstances, Claimant was eligible for a standard deduction of \$154 based on his one-person group size RFT 255 (October 2014), p. 1; BEM 556, (July 2013) p. 3.

Using a gross monthly income amount of \$735.00 and taking the appropriate deductions, Claimant's monthly net income amount is \$601.00. The net income limit for a group size of one is \$973.00. RFT 250 (October 2014), p. 1. Under Department policy, a person with a net income of \$601.00 and a group size of one is entitled to \$16.00 per month. RFT 260 (October 2014), p. 8. Accordingly, based on the information available to the Department at the time the Redetermination was submitted, it properly determined that Claimant was entitled to a FAP benefit amount of \$37.00 per month.

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 that Claimant was eligible to receive \$16.00 per month in FAP benefits effective November 1, 2014.

DECISION AND ORDER

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



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

Date Signed: **11/20/2014**

Date Mailed: **11/20/2014**

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 48909-8139

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