

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

[REDACTED]

Reg. No.: 14-017082
Issue No.: 3008
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: January 8, 2015
County: Oakland-District 2

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 January 8, 2015, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included Claimant and his friend, [REDACTED]. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included Eligibility Specialist [REDACTED].

ISSUE

Did the Department properly determine 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. Claimant was an on-going FAP recipient.
2. On September 20, 2014, the Department mailed to Claimant a Notice of Case Action (NCA) informing him that his FAP would be decreasing to \$ [REDACTED] per month because he did not pay utilities for his housing and the Department was no longer allowing the heat and utility standard.
3. The Department received Claimant's hearing request on November 25, 2014.

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).

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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 previously incorporated a heat and utility standard into some FAP recipients' budgets. That is no longer provided if the recipient is not paying utilities. Claimant's utilities are included in his rent expense, and that rent expense is incorporated in his budget. Claimant did not dispute the income or expenses that were attributed to him in his FAP budget. There is no evidence that there was an incorrect grant computation regarding his FAP benefits.

Claimant's previous Excess Shelter Deduction is found at Exhibit 1 Page 2. His current Excess Shelter Deduction is found at Exhibit 1 Page 5. His past housing expense was \$ [REDACTED] and he was allowed a \$ [REDACTED] heat and utility standard, putting his Adjusted Excess Shelter Amount at \$ [REDACTED]. That amount was included in his FAP budget at Page 3 of Exhibit 1. Presently, his housing expense is limited to the \$ [REDACTED] rent that he pays, plus a \$ [REDACTED] telephone standard. His total shelter amount is \$ [REDACTED] which is less than 50% of his gross income. Consequently, he is not given any Excess Shelter Deduction in his FAP budget (Page 6). His maximum benefit amount is \$ [REDACTED] less \$ [REDACTED] (30% of his Net Income/Adjusted Gross Income), leaving him with a net FAP benefit of \$ [REDACTED].

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 Claimant's FAP.

DECISION AND ORDER

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



Darryl Johnson
Administrative Law Judge
for Nick Lyon, Interim Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: **1/12/2015**

Date Mailed: **1/12/2015**

DJ/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 48909-8139

cc:

