

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

IN THE MATTER OF:

██████████
██████████
██████████

Reg. No.: 2014-12688
Issue No(s): 5001
Case No.: ██████████
Hearing Date: January 29, 2014
County: Wayne (15)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Zainab Baydoun

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 three way telephone hearing was held on January 29, 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 process Claimant's application for State Emergency Relief (SER)?

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 an unverified date, Claimant submitted an application for SER assistance with her ██████████
2. On August 15, 2013, the Department sent Claimant a SER Decision Notice informing her that she was approved for SER assistance but would be required to make a payment towards the amount of assistance she had requested. (Exhibit 1)
3. On November 1, 2013, Claimant submitted a hearing request 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 State Emergency Relief (SER) program is established by the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1-.119b. The SER program is administered by the Department (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) pursuant to MCL 400.10 and by Mich Admin Code, R 400.7001 through R 400.7049.

SER helps to restore or prevent shut off of a utility service when service is necessary to prevent serious harm to SER group members. The Department can award payments toward water or sewage up to the fiscal year cap if it will resolve the emergency. ERM 302 (March 2013), p.1. The fiscal year cap for assistance with water bill is \$175.00. ERM 302, p. 3. Prior to authorizing the department's portion of the cost of services, verification that the copayment, shortfall or contribution has been paid by the client is needed. ERM 302, pp. 2-4. The total copayment is the amount the SER group must pay toward their emergency. ERM 208 (March 2013), pp. 1-2. Copayment amounts are deducted from the cost of resolving the emergency. ERM 208, pp. 1-2.

In this case Claimant submitted an application for SER assistance with her [REDACTED] in the amount [REDACTED]. On August 15, 2013, the Department sent Claimant a SER Decision Notice informing her that her request for assistance was approved and that the Department would pay \$ [REDACTED] towards her [REDACTED] bill. (Exhibit 1). Claimant was informed that she would be required to make a copayment of [REDACTED] and provide verification that the payment was made by September 4, 2013, prior to the Department contributing the \$ [REDACTED] (Exhibit 1). The Department testified that Claimant was approved for SER assistance up to the fiscal cap for water and because verification that Claimant's contribution was not received, the Department did not authorize its [REDACTED] payment. Claimant confirmed that she did not provide verification of her required contribution.

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 because the Department approved Claimant for SER assistance with her [REDACTED] up to the fiscal cap, the Department acted in accordance with Department policy when it processed Claimant's SER application.

DECISION AND ORDER

Accordingly, the Department's decision is AFFIRMED.



Zainab Baydoun
Administrative Law Judge
for Maura Corrigan, Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: February 19, 2014

Date Mailed: February 20, 2014

NOTICE OF APPEAL: The claimant may appeal the Decision and Order to Circuit Court within 30 days of the receipt of the Decision and Order or, if a timely Request for Rehearing or Reconsideration was made, within 30 days of the receipt date of the Decision and Order of Reconsideration or Rehearing Decision.

Michigan Administrative Hearing System (MAHS) may order a rehearing or reconsideration on either its own motion or at the request of a party within 30 days of the mailing date of this Decision and Order. MAHS will not order a rehearing or reconsideration on the Department's motion where the final decision cannot be implemented within 90 days of the filing of the original request (60 days for FAP cases).

A Request for Rehearing or Reconsideration may be granted 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 Department, AHR or the claimant 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 the hearing decision is mailed.

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

ZB/tm

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