

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

██████████  
██████████████████  
██████████████████████████████

Reg. No.: 2014-27284  
Issue No(s): 4000;3008  
Case No.: ██████████  
Hearing Date: March 13, 2014  
County: Wayne (19)

**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 telephone hearing was held on March 13, 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 State Disability Assistance (SDA) and 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 ongoing recipient of FAP benefits.
2. In connection with a redetermination, Claimant's eligibility to receive FAP benefits was reviewed.
3. Claimant was approved for FAP benefits in the amount of ██████████
4. There was no negative action taken with respect to Claimant's SDA benefits within the 90 days prior to his filing of a hearing request.

5. On February 13, 2014, 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).

#### **SDA**

The State Disability Assistance (SDA) program is established by the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1-.119b. The Department of Human Services (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers the SDA program pursuant to MCL 400.10 and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3151-.3180.

Claimant submitted a hearing request disputing the actions of the Department with respect to his SDA benefits. Soon after commencement of the hearing, Claimant testified that he was not an active and ongoing recipient of SDA benefits and that he had not submitted an application for SDA within the 90 days prior to filing a hearing request. Claimant stated that he applied for SDA in the beginning of 2013 and that he was denied at that time. Therefore, the Department had neither determined Claimant's eligibility for SDA nor had the Department taken any negative action with respect to Claimant's SDA benefits within the 90 days prior to his hearing request; therefore, Claimant's hearing request with respect to SDA is **DISMISSED** for lack of jurisdiction. BAM 600, p 4. Claimant was informed that he was entitled to submit a new application for SDA and have his eligibility determined.

#### **FAP**

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 271.1 to 285.5. The Department (formerly known as the Family Independence Agency) administers FAP pursuant to MCL 400.10 and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3001 to .3015.

In this case, Claimant disputed the Department's calculation of his FAP benefits in the amount of \$[REDACTED]. At the hearing, the FAP EDG Net Income Results Budget was reviewed. (Exhibit 1). Because the Department is to include the gross amount of money earned from SSI in its calculation of unearned income and Claimant confirmed that the amount relied on by the Department was correct, the Department properly concluded that Claimant had unearned income of [REDACTED] which it testified came from monthly social security disability benefits. BEM 503 (January 2014), pp. 28-31.

The budget shows that the Department properly applied the [REDACTED] standard deduction applicable to Claimant's confirmed group size of one and that the \$[REDACTED] standard

heat and utility deduction available to all FAP recipients was properly applied. RFT 255 (December 2013), p 1; BEM 554 (July 2013), pp. 14-15. The Department testified that it applied housing costs in the amount of \$ [REDACTED]. Claimant stated that his previous rental expense was [REDACTED] however, his rental expense changed to [REDACTED] monthly. After further review, the Department actually applied housing costs in the amount of [REDACTED] towards Claimant's FAP budget.

Additionally, because Claimant's FAP group includes Senior/Disabled/Veteran (SDV) members, the group is eligible for a deduction for verified medical expenses incurred in excess of [REDACTED]. BEM 554, p 1. Because there were no medical expenses submitted, the deduction was not applicable.

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 properly determined that Claimant had net income of [REDACTED] and that he was eligible to receive monthly FAP benefits in the amount of [REDACTED]. Therefore, the Department did act in accordance with Department policy when it calculated Claimant's FAP benefits.

### **DECISION AND ORDER**

Accordingly, Claimant's hearing request with respect to SDA is DISMISSED and the Department's FAP decision is AFFIRMED.



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

Date Signed: March 14, 2014

Date Mailed: March 14, 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]  
[REDACTED]