

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

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

Reg. No.: 2014 29056  
Issue No(s): 2001, 6001  
Case No.: ██████████  
Hearing Date: April 17, 2014  
County: Wayne (57)

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Jacquelyn 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 April 17, 2014, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included Claimant. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included ██████ ██████, Family Independence Manager, and ██████████, Eligibility Specialist.

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly calculate Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits?

Did the Department properly calculate Claimant's Child Development and Care (CDC) 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. On February 4, 2014, Claimant completed an application for FAP and CDC benefits.
2. On February 6, 2014, the Department completed a FAP and CDC budget for Claimant to determine her eligibility for benefits.

3. On February 6, 2014, the Department sent Claimant a Notice of Case Action notifying her that her (i) FAP allotment would be \$75.00 for February and \$84.00 for March 2014; and (ii) CDC benefits were approved for 80%.
4. On February 13, 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 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.

The Child Development and Care (CDC) program is established by Titles IVA, IVE and XX of the Social Security Act, 42 USC 601-619, 670-679c, and 1397-1397m-5; the Child Care and Development Block Grant of 1990, PL 101-508, 42 USC 9858 to 9858q; and the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, PL 104-193. The program is implemented by 45 CFR 98.1-99.33. The Department administers the program pursuant to MCL 400.10 and provides services to adults and children pursuant to MCL 400.14(1) and Mich Admin Code, R 400.5001-.5020.

Additionally, The Department determines a client's eligibility for program benefits based on the client's actual income and/or prospective income. Prospective income is income not yet received but expected. BEM 505 (July 2013), p. 1. In prospecting income, the Department is required to use income from the past 30 days if it appears to accurately reflect what is expected to be received in the benefit month, discarding any pay if it is unusual and does not reflect the normal, expected pay amounts. BEM 505, p. 4.

On February 4, 2014, Claimant completed an application for FAP and CDC benefits. Further, the Department obtained Claimant's gross earnings as a result of a work match which included Claimant's January 2014 wages. The Department indicated that it used Claimant's December 2013 wages when calculating her February 2014 benefits and used her January 2014 wages when calculating her March 2014 benefits. However, a review of the FAP Net Income Results (Exhibit 3) reveals that the Department determined that Claimant's monthly FAP benefits was \$84.00 but was because Claimant did not apply until February 4, 2014, she received prorated benefits in the amount of \$75.00 for February 2014.

The earned income amount used in both the FAP income budget and the CDC Income budget amounted exactly to the wages Claimant earned in December 2013. Therefore,

it is found that the Department used Claimant's December 2013 wages when calculating her FAP and CDC benefit amount for both February and March 2014. Accordingly, the Department did not act in accordance with policy when it failed to use Claimant's January 2014 income in prospecting her earned income for her FAP and CDC budgets.

Claimant testified at the hearing that she was laid off from work as of February 17, 2014. Claimant acknowledged that she had not reported her layoff to the Department prior to the hearing and therefore, the layoff was not considered in this decision.

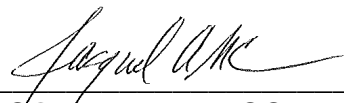
The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and for the reasons stated on the record, if any, finds that the Department did not act in accordance with Department policy when it failed to use Claimant's most recent wages and failed to give Claimant a child care deduction when calculating Claimant's eligibility for FAP and CDC benefits.

**DECISION AND ORDER**

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

THE DEPARTMENT IS ORDERED TO BEGIN DOING THE FOLLOWING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH DEPARTMENT POLICY AND CONSISTENT WITH THIS HEARING DECISION, WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE DATE OF MAILING OF THIS DECISION AND ORDER:

1. Recalculate Claimant's FAP and CDC budgets for February 4, 2014, ongoing;
2. Issue supplements to Claimant for FAP and CDC benefits she is eligible to receive but did not from February 4, 2014 ongoing; and
3. Notify Claimant of its decision in writing.



**JACQUELYN A. MCCLINTON**  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Maura Corrigan, Director  
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: April 25, 2014

Date Mailed: April 25, 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

JAM/cl

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