

**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.: 15-000292
Issue No.: 3004
Case No.: ██████████
Hearing Date: February 11, 2015
County: Wayne-District 35

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 February 11, 2015, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included Claimant. Participants on behalf of the Department of Human Services (Department) included ██████████ ██████████, Hearings Facilitator.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly process Claimant's application 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. On November 2, 2014, Claimant submitted an application for FAP benefits. (Exhibit A)
2. On December 15, 2014, Claimant submitted a second application for FAP benefits. (Exhibit 2)
3. On December 15, 2014, the Department sent Claimant a Notice of Case Action informing her that she was approved for FAP benefits for the period December 15, 2014, ongoing. (Exhibit 1)
4. On January 5, 2015, Claimant requested a hearing disputing the Department's failure to process her November 2, 2014, application for FAP benefits.

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, when the Department receives an application for assistance, it is to be registered and processed in accordance with Department policies. The date of application is the date the local office receives the required minimum information on an application or the filing form. BAM 110 (July 2014), pp.3-8, 18-22. The standard of promptness (SOP) begins the date the department receives an application/filing form, with minimum required information. BAM 115 (July 2014), pp. 1, 14-15. The Department is to certify program approval or denial of the application within the appropriate standard of promptness, unless an exception applies and upon certification of eligibility results, the Department is to notify clients in writing of positive and negative actions by generating the appropriate notice of case action. After processing an initial application, the Department will notify clients of the approval or denial. BAM 115, pp. 1, 13-19; BAM 220 (October 2014), p. 1.

In this case, Claimant requested a hearing disputing the Department's action with respect to an application for FAP benefits that she stated she submitted on November 2, 2014. At the hearing, the Department stated that it did not have any record of a FAP application submitted by Claimant on November 2, 2014, and that the only application received by the Department on November 2, 2014, was Claimant's MA application. (Exhibits 3 and 4). The Department testified that it received a FAP application submitted by Claimant on December 15, 2014, that the application was registered and processed, and that Claimant was approved for FAP benefits for December 15, 2014, ongoing. (Exhibits 1 and 2). Although the Department presented a program request summary showing that there was no FAP application registered on Bridges for November 2, 2014; Claimant provided a copy of the confirmation she received after submitting her application online in support of her testimony. (Exhibit A).

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 Claimant provided sufficient evidence to establish that she submitted an application for FAP

benefits on November 2, 2014, the Department did not act in accordance with Department policy when it failed to process Claimant's FAP application.

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. Register and process Claimant's November 2, 2014, application for FAP benefits;
2. Issue FAP supplements to Claimant from November 2, 2014, ongoing, in accordance with Department policy; and
3. Notify Claimant in writing of its decision.



Zainab Baydoun
Administrative Law Judge
for Nick Lyon, Interim Director
Department of Human Services

Date Signed: **2/19/2015**

Date Mailed: **2/19/2015**

ZB / tlf

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]