

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

██████████  
██████████  
██████████

Reg. No.: 15-004982  
Issue No.: 5001  
Case No.: ██████████  
Hearing Date: May 07, 2015  
County: WAYNE-DISTRICT 57  
(CONNER)

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Lynn M. Ferris**

**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; and Mich Admin Code, R 792.11002. After due notice, a telephone hearing was conducted on May 7, 2015 from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included the Claimant. Participants on behalf of the Department of Health and Human Services (Department) included ██████████, APW, and ██████████, FIM and Hearing Facilitator.

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly deny the Claimant's request to waive the Shortfall of \$410 for heat energy services?

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the competent, material, and substantial evidence on the whole record, finds as material fact:

1. The Claimant applied for State Emergency Relief (SER) on March 10, 2015. The Department issued a SER Decision Notice on March 24, 2015 finding that the Claimant had a Shortfall for her energy heat services of \$410. Exhibit E.
2. The Department did not waive the shortfall as it is required to be paid by the Claimant and cannot be waived.
3. The Claimant also sought assistance with her water bill but her co payment of \$4068 was not made and would not have resolved the emergency.

4. The Claimant requested a hearing on March 26, 2015 protesting the Department's failure to waive the \$410 heat shortfall.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

Department policies are contained in the Department of Health and Human Services Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), Department of Health and Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM), Department of Health and Human Services Reference Tables Manual (RFT), and Department of Health and 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 Department of Human Services) pursuant to MCL 400.10 and Mich Admin Code, R 400.7001-.7049.

In this case, the Department sought a hearing due to the failure of the Department to waive the \$410 shortfall she was to pay as part of her heat energy request. The Claimant in the past had received waiver of co pays and believed the Department should have waived the shortfall. The Claimant did not pay the shortfall.

Department policy found in ERM 301 provides:

If good cause does not exist, the shortfall must be paid before any SER payment can be authorized. The group has 30 calendar days, beginning with the date of application, to provide verification to the worker that the shortfall payment has been made or will be made by another agency or organization. **A shortfall cannot be waived.** ERM 301, (February 1, 2015), p. 8

There were no good cause reasons presented at the hearing which would have allowed for waiver, good cause is:

#### **Good Cause - Failure to Meet Obligations**

Good cause for failure to meet obligations for shelter, energy, or utilities exists if:

- The SER group's net countable income from all sources during each month the group failed to pay their obligations was less than the amount shown for the SER

group size in the good cause table in this item. ERM 209 (August 1, 2014), p. 2

- The income was not reduced by a disqualification of SSI or department benefits for failure to comply with a program requirement.

**Note:** This includes income of people who were in the group during the required payment period.

**Good Cause**

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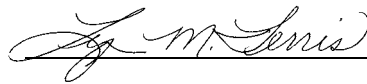
**Unexpected Expenses**

If the emergency resulted from unexpected expenses related to maintaining or securing employment, verify expenses for each month the group failed to pay their obligations. The employment related expenses must equal or exceed the monthly obligation. Payment differences are the responsibility of the SER group.

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 did not waive the \$410 energy (heat) shortfall

**DECISION AND ORDER**

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



**Lynn M. Ferris**  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Nick Lyon, Director  
Department of Health and Human Services

Date Signed: **6/5/2015**

Date Mailed: **6/5/2015**  
LMF / cl

**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 copy of the claim or application for appeal must be filed with the Michigan Administrative Hearing System (MAHS).

A party may request a rehearing or reconsideration of this Hearing Decision from 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]  
[REDACTED]  
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