

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

[REDACTED]

MAHS Reg. No.: 15-015822  
Issue No.: 1001  
Agency Case No.: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: October 13, 2015  
County: WASHTENAW (DISTRICT 20)

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Kevin Scully

**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, telephone hearing was held on October 13, 2015, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] represented the Department of Health and Human Services (Department).

**ISSUE**

Did the Department of Health and Human Services (Department) properly deny the Claimant's application for Family Independence Program (FIP) 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 July 20, 2015, the Department received the Claimant's Family Independence Program (FIP) application.
2. On July 21, 2015, the Department referred the Claimant and another adult member of her household to the Partnership. Accountability. Training. Hope. (PATH) program.
3. On August 20, 2015, the Department notified the Claimant that it had denied her Family Independence Program (FIP) application.
4. On August 26, 2015, the Department received the Claimant's request for a hearing protesting the denial of her Family Independence Program (FIP) application.

## **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 Family Independence Program (FIP) was established pursuant to the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-193, and 42 USC 601 to 679c. The Department (formerly known as the Department of Human Services) administers FIP pursuant to 45 CFR 233-260, MCL 400.10, the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1-.119b, and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3101-.3131.

Clients must be made aware that public assistance is limited to 48 months to meet their family's needs and they must take personal responsibility to achieve self-sufficiency. This message, along with information on ways to achieve independence, direct support services, non-compliance penalties, and good cause reasons, is initially shared by Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) when the client applies for cash assistance. The Partnership. Accountability Training. Hope. (PATH) program requirements, education and training opportunities, and assessments will be covered by PATH when a mandatory PATH participant is referred at application. Department of Health and Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) 229 (October 1, 2015), p 1.

Completion of the 21 day PATH application eligibility period (AEP) part of orientation which is an eligibility requirement for approval of the FIP application. PATH participants must complete all of the following in order for their FIP application to be approved:

- Begin the AEP by the last date to attend as indicated on the DHS-4785, PATH Appointment Notice.
- Complete PATH AEP requirements.
- Continue to participate in PATH after completion of the 21 day AEP.

The Department will deny the FIP application if an applicant does not complete all of the above three components of the AEP. BEM 229, p1.

In this case, the Department received the Claimant's application for FIP benefits that included the Claimant and another adult group member. The Department referred both of these individuals to the PATH program. The Claimant participated in the PATH orientation, but the other adult group member did not. Since this group member did not complete the PATH orientation during the AEP, the Department denied the FIP application.

The Claimant argued that shortly after she applied for FIP benefits, the other adult group member listed on her application was incarcerated in jail and therefore was unable to complete the FIP orientation. The Claimant argued that the Department should have been aware of this based on the information she reported on an application for State Emergency Relief (SER) benefits on July 29, 2015.

This Administrative Law Judge finds that the Claimant failed to establish that she reported that a person had left her FIP benefit group in a timely manner. Since an adult work eligible individual in the Claimant's FIP group failed to participate in the PATH program during the AEP, the Claimant was not eligible for FIP benefits.

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 denied the Claimant's Family Independence Program (FIP) application.

### **DECISION AND ORDER**

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



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Kevin Scully  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Nick Lyon, Director  
Department of Health and Human Services

Date Signed: **10/20/2015**

Date Mailed: **10/20/2015**

KS/■

**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:

