

**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.: 15-017008
Issue No.: 3008
Agency Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: November 03, 2015
County: JACKSON

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 November 03, 2015, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included [REDACTED] and his landlord [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] (General Services Program Manager) represented the Department of Health and Human Services (Department).

ISSUE

Did the Department of Health and Human Services (Department) properly determined the Claimant's eligibility 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. The Claimant is an ongoing Food Assistance Program (FAP) recipient.
2. The Claimant receives monthly Retirement, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (RSDI) in the gross monthly amount of \$ [REDACTED].
3. The Claimant receives monthly Supplemental Security Income (SSI) in the gross monthly amount of \$ [REDACTED].
4. The Claimant receives monthly State Supplemental Security Income (SSP) in the gross monthly amount of \$ [REDACTED].
5. The Claimant has monthly housing expenses of \$ [REDACTED] that does not include expenses for telephone service or trash removal.

6. On September 12, 2015, the Department notified the Claimant that his Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits would be reduced to \$ [REDACTED] as of October 1, 2015.
7. On September 23, 2015, the Department received the Claimant's request for a hearing protesting the amount of his Food Assistance Program (FAP) allotment.

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 Food Assistance Program (FAP) [formerly known as the Food Stamp program] is established by the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, 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 Department of Human Services) administers FAP pursuant to MCL 400.10, the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1-.119b, and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3001-.3011.

All earned and unearned income available to the Claimant is countable. Earned income means income received from another person or organization or from self-employment for duties for duties that were performed for compensation or profit. Unearned income means all income that is not earned, including but not limited to funds received from the Family Independence Program (FIP), State Disability Assistance (SDA), Child Development and Care (CDC), Medicaid (MA), Social Security Benefits (RSDI/SSI), Veterans Administration (VA), Unemployment Compensation Benefits (UCB), Adult Medical Program (AMA), alimony, and child support payments. The amount counted may be more than the client actually receives because the gross amount is used prior to any deductions. Department of Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) 500 (July 1, 2015).

The Claimant is an ongoing FAP recipient as a group of one. The Claimant receives unearned income in the gross monthly amount of \$ [REDACTED], which includes \$ [REDACTED] of RSDI benefits, \$ [REDACTED] of SSI benefits, and \$ [REDACTED] of SSP benefits. The Claimant's adjusted gross income of \$ [REDACTED] was determined by reducing his total income by the \$ [REDACTED] standard deduction. The Claimant pays shelter expenses that include heat and electricity but not telephone service or trash removal costs. The Claimant's excess shelter deduction of \$ [REDACTED] was determined by adding his \$ [REDACTED] monthly housing expenses to the \$ [REDACTED] trash removal standard deduction and the \$ [REDACTED] telephone service standard deduction, then subtracting 50% of his adjusted gross income.

The Claimant's net income of \$ [REDACTED] was determined by subtracting the Claimant's excess shelter deduction from his adjusted gross income. A group of one with a net income of \$ [REDACTED] is entitled to a \$ [REDACTED] monthly allotment of FAP benefits. Department of Health and Human Services Reference Table Manual (RFT) 260 (October 1, 2015), p 8.

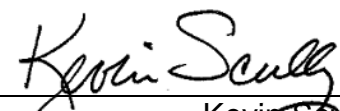
The Claimant argued that as a diabetic, he requires a special diet and that he required additional food assistance benefits.

This Administrative Law Judge finds that the Department determined the Claimant in accordance with Department policy and was unable to consider his special circumstances when determining his benefit level. Although he may be deserving of additional benefits, the claimant's request is not within the scope of authority delegated to this Administrative Law Judge. Administrative Law Judges have no authority to make exceptions to the department policy set out in the program manuals. Furthermore, administrative adjudication is an exercise of executive power rather than judicial power, and restricts the granting of equitable remedies. *Michigan Mutual Liability Co. v Baker*, 295 Mich 237; 294 NW 168 (1940).

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 determined the Claimant's eligibility for Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits as of October 1, 2015.

DECISION AND ORDER

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



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

Date Signed: **11/9/2015**

Date Mailed: **11/9/2015**

KS [REDACTED]

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:

