

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

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

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

Reg. No.: 15-003862  
Issue No.: 3008  
Case No.: ██████████  
Hearing Date: April 20, 2015  
County: WAYNE-DISTRICT 19  
(INKSTER)

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Eric Feldman**

**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 held on April 20, 2015, from Detroit, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included Claimant, ██████████. Participants on behalf of the Department of Health and Human Services (Department or DHHS) included ██████████, Hearings Facilitator.

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly calculate Claimant's Food Assistance Program (FAP) allotment to be ██████ effective March 1, 2015?

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

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

1. Claimant is an ongoing recipient of FAP benefits.
2. On March 5, 2015, the Department sent Claimant a Notice of Case Action notifying her that she was approved for FAP benefits in the amount of ██████ effective March 1, 2015 to February 29, 2016. See Exhibit 1, pp. 4-5.
3. On March 11, 2015, Claimant filed a hearing request, protesting her FAP allotment. See Exhibit 1, pp. 2-3.

### **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.

It was not disputed that the certified group size is two and that there are no senior/disabled/disabled veteran (SDV) member(s). The Department presented the March 2015 FAP budget for review. See Exhibit 1, pp. 6-7.

First, the Department calculated Claimant's gross earned income to be [REDACTED], which she did not dispute. See Exhibit 1 p. 6 and BEM 505 (July 2014), pp. 1-8. Then, the Department calculated Claimant's unearned income (child support) to be [REDACTED] which she did not dispute. See Exhibit 1 p. 6 and BEM 505, pp. 4-5. This resulted in Claimant's total income amount to be [REDACTED]. See Exhibit 1, p. 6.

The Department then applied the 20 percent earned income deduction. BEM 550 (February 2014), p. 1. Twenty percent of [REDACTED] is [REDACTED] which results in a post earned income of [REDACTED]. See Exhibit 1, p. 6. Next, the Department applied the [REDACTED] standard deduction applicable to Claimant's group size of two. RFT 255 (October 2014), p. 1. Once the Department subtracts the [REDACTED] standard deduction, this results in an adjusted gross income of \$1,526. See Exhibit 1, p. 6.

Also, the FAP – Excess Shelter Deduction budget indicated that Claimant's monthly housing expense is [REDACTED] which Claimant did not dispute. See Exhibit 1, p. 8. The Department also provided Claimant with the \$[REDACTED] mandatory heat and utility (h/u) standard, which encompasses all utilities (water, gas, electric, telephone) and is unchanged even if a client's monthly utility expenses exceed the \$553 amount. See Exhibit 1, p. 8; BEM 554 (October 2014), pp. 14-15; and RFT 255, p. 1.

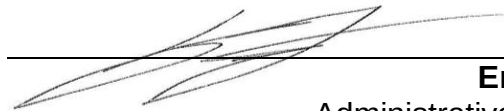
Furthermore, the total shelter obligation is calculated by adding Claimant's housing expenses to the utility credit; this amount is found to be [REDACTED]. See Exhibit 1, p. 8. Then, the Department subtracts the total shelter amount from fifty percent of the [REDACTED] adjusted gross income. Fifty percent of the adjusted gross income is [REDACTED]. See Exhibit 1, p. 8. When the Department subtracts the total shelter amount from fifty percent of the gross income, the excess shelter amount is found to be [REDACTED]. See Exhibit 1, p. 8.

The Department then subtracts the [REDACTED] adjusted gross income from the [REDACTED] excess shelter deduction, which results in a net income of [REDACTED]. See Exhibit 1, pp. 6-7. A chart listed in RFT 260 is used to determine the proper FAP benefit issuance. Based on Claimant's group size and net income, the Department properly determined that Claimant's FAP benefit issuance is found to be [REDACTED] effective March 1, 2015. RFT 260 (October 2014), p. 15.

### **DECISION AND ORDER**

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 properly calculated Claimant's FAP allotment in the amount of [REDACTED] effective March 1, 2015.

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



**Eric Feldman**  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Nick Lyon, Director  
Department of Health and Human Services

Date Signed: **4/20/2015**

Date Mailed: **4/20/2015**

EJF/tm

**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]