

**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.: 15-015476
Issue No.: 3004
Agency Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: October 15, 2015
County: WAYNE-DISTRICT 19

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Lynn M. Ferris

HEARING DECISION

Following Petitioner'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 October 15, 2015, from Detroit, Michigan. The Petitioner was represented by [REDACTED], the Claimant's Authorized Hearing Representative (AHR); the Claimant appeared but did not participate due to her disability and inability to participate. The Department was represented by [REDACTED], Hearing Facilitator.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly process the shelter change in rent?

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 Department received a change in shelter expense which reported paying rent by the Claimant on [REDACTED], which verified the shelter increase by lease. Exhibit B
2. The Department processed the change on [REDACTED] and issued a Notice of Case Action on [REDACTED] effective [REDACTED]. Exhibit C
3. The Claimant's Authorized Hearing Representative (AHR) requested a timely hearing on [REDACTED], protesting the processing for the change.

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.

In this case, the Department received a verification of rent on [REDACTED] and processed the change (increase) in FAP benefits as of [REDACTED]. Department policy provides:

FAP Only

Act on a change reported by means other than a tape match within 10 days of becoming aware of the change.

Benefit Increases: Changes which result in an increase in the household's benefits must be effective no later than the first allotment issued 10 days after the date the change was reported, provided any necessary verification was returned by the due date. A supplemental issuance may be necessary in some cases. If necessary verification is **not** returned by the due date, take appropriate action based on what type of verification was requested. If verification is returned late, the increase must affect the month after verification is returned. BAM 220 (October 1, 2015) p. 7

In this case, the evidence presented by the Department indicated that the rent change was reported by the Claimant's AHR, who provided the Department a lease on [REDACTED], [REDACTED]. No further verification was conducted by the Department regarding the lease. No earnings change was reported for the Claimant.

Based upon these facts, the Department was required to act on a change within 10 days of becoming aware of the change. Here, the Department was aware of the change on [REDACTED] and was required to process the change by [REDACTED]. Exhibit B. The Department did not process the change until [REDACTED], not within the 10 day period. Based upon BEM 220, the benefit increase to the Claimant's FAP should have occurred no later than the first allotment 10 days after [REDACTED] and should have been effective to increase the Claimant's FAP benefits as of [REDACTED].

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 did not act in accordance with Department policy when it processed the Claimant's FAP increase to be effective [REDACTED].

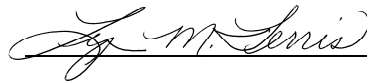
DECISION AND ORDER

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. The Department shall issue a FAP supplement to the Claimant to reflect an increase in FAP benefits she was entitled to receive as of [REDACTED] due to a reported shelter expense and shall correct effective the FAP benefit change (increase) to [REDACTED] in accordance with Department policy.



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

Date Signed: **10/15/2015**

Date Mailed: **10/15/2015**

LMF / hw

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:

