

**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.: 15-015853  
Issue No.: 5001  
Agency Case No.: [REDACTED]  
Hearing Date: October 28, 2015  
County: CALHOUN  
(DISTRICT 21)

**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 28, 2015, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] (Hearing Facilitator) represented the Department of Health and Human Services (Department). Witnesses on behalf of the Department included [REDACTED].

**ISSUE**

Did the Department of Health and Human Services (Department) properly deny the Claimant's State Emergency Relief (SER) application?

**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 August 10, 2015, the Department received the Claimant's application for State Emergency Relief (SER) benefits.
2. On August 11, 2015, the Department determined that there was no emergency requiring State Emergency Relief (SER) benefits.
3. On August 25, 2015, the Department received the Claimant's request for a hearing protesting the denial of her State Emergency Relief (SER) 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 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.

State Emergency Relief (SER) assists individuals and families to resolve or prevent homelessness by providing money for rent, security deposits, and moving expenses. Department of Health and Human Services Emergency Relief Manual (ERM) 303 (October 1, 2013), p 1.

A group living with friends or relatives is not homeless, even if the arrangement is temporary unless the group is living with other persons to escape a domestic violence situation. ERM 303, p 3.

Need for relocation services can be established where the SER group needs adequate housing to avoid a foster care placement or before a child or children can come home from foster care. ERM 303, p 4.

On August 10, 2015, the Department received the Claimant's application for State Emergency Relief (SER) benefits requesting assistance with relocation expenses and claiming to be homeless. The Claimant reported to the Department that she needs a bigger place for her and her kids. Department records indicate that the Claimant reported to the Department on August 11, 2015, that she is staying with a boyfriend and she is trying to get her children back in her custody. The Department determined that there was no emergency requiring SER benefits and denied the Claimant's application.

The Claimant did not dispute that she is living with a friend in his home. The Claimant testified that this living arrangement became necessary when she was forced to escape a domestic violence situation. The Claimant testified that her current living situation is inadequate and other arrangements must be made before she can retrieve a child from foster care.

This Administrative Law Judge finds that the Claimant reported circumstances to the Department that, if verified, make her potentially eligible for SER benefits and the Department's eligibility interview failed to adequately investigate these circumstances.

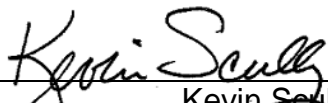
The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and for the reasons stated on the record, if any, finds that the Department did not act in accordance with Department policy when it denied the Claimant's State Emergency Relief (SER) application.

**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. Initiate a determination of the Claimant's eligibility for State Emergency Relief (SER) benefits for relocation services.
2. Provide the Claimant with a Notice of Case Action (DHS-1605) describing the Department's revised eligibility determination.
3. Issue the Claimant any retroactive benefits she may be eligible to receive, if any.

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

Date Signed: **11/6/2015**

Date Mailed: **11/6/2015**

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:

