

**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.: 15-017807
Issue No.: 3004
Agency Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: November 17, 2015
County: WASHTENAW (DISTRICT 20)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Gary Heisler

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 November 17, 2015, from Lansing, Michigan. Participants on behalf of Claimant included himself as well as [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] of the University of Michigan Law [REDACTED]. Participants on behalf of the Department of Health and Human Services (Department) included Program Manager [REDACTED] and Office Supervisor [REDACTED].

ISSUE

Did the Department properly process Claimant's June 3, 2015 Food Assistance Program (FAP) 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 June 3, 2015, Claimant submitted an online application for Medical Assistance (MA) and Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits. The Food Assistance Program (FAP) portion of the application was not processed.
2. On September 16, 2015, Claimant submitted a hearing request.
3. On the date of this hearing the Food Assistance Program (FAP) portion of the application has still not been processed.

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.

During this hearing the Ms. Childs testified that the Medical Assistance (MA) portion of the application was processed. However, the Food Assistance Program (FAP) portion cannot be accessed through their BRIDGES system but can be seen through MIBRIDGES. The Department testified that the Department will need to pursue getting the Food Assistance Program (FAP) portion into BRIDGES so they can process it. Bridges Administration Manual (BAM) 115 Application Processing requires the following:

Any application or the DHS-1171, Filing Form, with the minimum information, must be registered in Bridges; see BAM 110, Response to Applications.

Following registration of the application, do **all** of the following:

Interview clients when required by policy; see INTERVIEWS in this item.

Certify eligibility results for each program within the applicable standard of promptness (SOP); see Standards of Promptness and Processing Delays in this item.

Bridges automatically generates a client notice informing them of the eligibility decision. Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM) 220 explains the use of client notices.

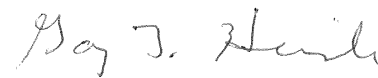
The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and for the reasons stated on the record, if any, finds that the Department did not act in accordance with Department policy when it failed to process Claimant's June 3, 2015 Food Assistance Program (FAP) application.

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. Process Claimant's June 3, 2015 Food Assistance Program (FAP) application in accordance with Department policy.



Gary Heisler
Administrative Law Judge
for Nick Lyon, Director
Department of Health and Human Services

Date Mailed: **11/24/2015**

GH/nr

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:

