

**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.: 15-024212
Issue No.: ESO
Agency Case No.: [REDACTED]
Hearing Date: February 18, 2016
County: DHHS SSPC OFFICE

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Lynn M. Ferris

HEARING DECISION

Pursuant to a September 8, 2014 federal lawsuit, the Department of Health and Human Services (Department) issued notices to Medicaid applicants who were potentially denied full Medicaid coverage based on immigration status between January 2014 and May 2015. The notice included information about how to request a hearing. Petitioner filed a request for a hearing and accordingly this matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to Michigan Administrative Hearing Rules (R 792.10101 – R 792.11903) and the Administrative Procedures Act, 1969 PA 306, as amended, MCL 24.201 *et seq.*

After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on February 18, 2016, from Detroit, Michigan. The Petitioner was represented by the Petitioner, [REDACTED]. The Department was represented by [REDACTED], Eligibility Specialist. [REDACTED] served as translator during the hearing.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly determine Petitioner's immigration status or citizenship when determining Medicaid (MA) eligibility?

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 November 9, 2012, Petitioner applied for MA benefits. Exhibit A.
2. On the date of MA application, the information advised the Department that Petitioner was not a United States (U.S.) citizen. The Petitioner advised the Department in her application that she had eligible immigration status. Exhibit B.
3. The Petitioner entered the U.S. as a permanent resident on [REDACTED], and was not a refugee or category RE, AM, or AS. Exhibit C.

4. Beginning [REDACTED], the Petitioner's **full-coverage MA** was **converted again to** Emergency Services Only (ESO) MA coverage due to her not attaining permanent resident status for five (5) years or denied MA coverage.
5. On January 7, 2016, the Department issued a Benefit Notice notifying the Petitioner that she was eligible for Full Coverage Medicaid as of April 2014 through January 2016. Exhibit B.
6. On a date unknown, the Department issued a notice to the Petitioner indicating she might have been denied full MA coverage based on immigration status between January 2014 and May 2015.
7. On September 3, 2015, Petitioner requested a hearing.

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), Department of Health and Human Services Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) Related Eligibility Manual (MREM), and Department of Health and Human Services Emergency Relief Manual (ERM).

The Medical Assistance (MA) program is established by Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 USC 1396-1396w-5; 42 USC 1315; the Affordable Care Act of 2010, the collective term for the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Pub. L. No. 111-148, as amended by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, Pub. L. No. 111-152; and 42 CFR 430.10-.25. The Department administers the MA program pursuant to 42 CFR 435, MCL 400.10, and MCL 400.105-.112k.

In this case, Petitioner requested a hearing disputing the Department's finding her eligible for ESO instead of full MA coverage. To be eligible for full-coverage MA, a person must be a U.S. citizen or an alien admitted to the U.S. under a specific immigration status. BEM 225 (January 2014), p. 2. An individual who is a permanent resident alien with a class code on the permanent residency card other than RE, AM or AS is eligible only for ESO MA coverage for the first five (5) years in the U.S. unless the alien is a qualified military alien or the spouse or dependent child of a qualified military alien. BEM 225, pp. 7-8, 30; MREM, § 3.6. A qualified military alien is a qualified alien on active duty in, or veteran honorably discharged from, the U.S. Armed Forces. BEM 225, p. 5; MREM, § 3.6. A person who does not meet an acceptable alien status, including undocumented aliens and non-immigrants who have stayed beyond the period authorized by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, are eligible only for ESO MA coverage. BEM 225, p. 9. The alien status of each non-citizen must be verified to be eligible for full MA coverage. BEM 225, p. 2.

In this case, the Petitioner credibly testified that she had a U.S. date of entry as of [REDACTED], as permanent residents on her green card. This fact was not disputed by the Department.

The Department testified that after Petitioner filed her hearing request, it reassessed her MA group's eligibility. Based on Petitioner's statements in her MA application that she, was not a U.S. citizen but had eligible immigration status and that she was a permanent resident, it reassessed the MA eligibility and activated full-coverage MA for Petitioner.

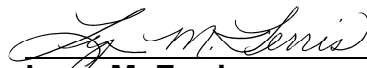
On January 7, 2016, the Department sent Petitioner a Benefit Notice showing that it had changed her coverage to full-coverage MA for the period April 2014 through January 2016. Exhibit B, pp. 32-33. The Department decided administratively to make the change to full coverage MA due to the application statements, not the verified immigration status.

The Department changed Petitioner's coverage back to ESO beginning February 1, 2016. The only issue presented is whether coverage was properly converted back to ESO. The evidence presented by the Department, from its Bridges system and the Petitioner's testimony, established that Petitioner, entered the U.S. in July 10, 2012. There was no eligible asylum or refugee status identified as evidence presented regarding the permanent residency card. Further, there was no evidence in the application that Petitioner had served in the U.S. military or was the spouse of a service person. Because Petitioner had not been a resident alien for five (5) years, had not served in the U.S. military, and did not have asylum or refugee status, Petitioner was not eligible for full-coverage MA. Therefore, the Department properly converted the MA group's MA coverage to ESO coverage effective February 1, 2016. The Petitioner will be potentially eligible after attaining five (5) years permanent resident in [REDACTED] and should re-apply for Medical Assistance at that time.

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** properly determine Petitioner's immigration status or citizenship when determining MA eligibility.

DECISION AND ORDER

Accordingly, the Department's determination about MA eligibility based on immigration status is **AFFIRMED**.



Lynn M. Ferris

Administrative Law Judge
for Nick Lyon, Director

Department of Health and Human Services

Date Mailed: **3/7/2016**

LMF/jaf

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.

cc:

