



RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
MICHIGAN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING SYSTEM  
Christopher Seppanen  
Executive Director

MIKE ZIMMER  
DIRECTOR

DATE MAILED: MARCH 4, 2016  
MAHS DOCKET NO.: 16-000297  
AGENCY NO.: [REDACTED]  
PETITIONER: [REDACTED]

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Michael Bennane**

**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 February 24, 2016, from Detroit, Michigan. The Petitioner was represented by the Petitioner. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department) was represented by [REDACTED], Hearings Facilitator.

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly close the Petitioner's Family Independence Program (FIP) and Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits?

**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 December 11, 2015, the Petitioner notified the Department that she no longer worked for [REDACTED] and had begun working at the [REDACTED] on [REDACTED] 2015.
2. On December 11, 2015, the Department sent the Petitioner a Verification Checklist (VCL) requesting information about the Petitioner's employment and income.
3. On December 11, 2015, the Department sent the Petitioner a Verification of Employment concerning the ending of her employment at [REDACTED].

4. On January 14, 2016, the Petitioner requested a hearing to protest the closure of her Family Independence Program (FIP) and Food Assistance Program (FAP) on February 1, 2016.

### **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 Family Independence Program (FIP) was established pursuant to the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-193, and 42 USC 601 to 679c. The Department (formerly known as the Department of Human Services) administers FIP pursuant to 45 CFR 233-260, MCL 400.10, the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1-.119b, and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3101-.3131.

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 Petitioner testified that she provided documentation on her employment and income. She further testified that she called the Department (her Specialist), a number of times and asked for assistance because the information concerning her previous employment was for a temporary agency that would not provide the information/documentation to the Petitioner.

The Department testified that the Petitioner had provided documentation of her new employment and check stubs for the same.

The undersigned ALJ takes into consideration the attempts made by the Petitioner to provide the requested information, the information that the Petitioner did provide and the request that the Petitioner made for assistance from the Department. (BAM 130, January 2016).

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 failed to satisfy its burden of showing that it acted in accordance with Department policy when it closed the Petitioner's FAP and FIP benefits.

**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. Reinstate the Petitioner's FIP and FAP benefits back to February 1, 2016, and supplement for missed benefits from that date forward.



MJB/jaf

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**Michael Bennane**  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Nick Lyon, Director  
Department of Health and Human Services

**NOTICE OF APPEAL:** A party may appeal this Order in circuit court within 30 days of the receipt date. A copy of the circuit court appeal must be filed with the Michigan Administrative Hearing System (MAHS).

A party may request a rehearing or reconsideration of this Order if the request is received by MAHS within 30 days of the date the Order was issued. The party requesting a rehearing or reconsideration must provide the specific reasons for the request. MAHS will not review any response to a request for rehearing/reconsideration.

A written request may be mailed or faxed to MAHS. If submitted by fax, the written request must be faxed to (517) 335-6088; 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

**DHHS**

[REDACTED]

**PETITIONER**

[REDACTED]