



RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

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

SHELLY EDGERTON  
DIRECTOR

[REDACTED]

Date Mailed: May 5, 2016  
MAHS Docket No.: 16-001773  
Agency No.: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Robert J. Chavez**

### **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 April 7, 2016, from Detroit, Michigan. The Petitioner was represented by himself. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department) was represented by Candice Bennis, Hearings Facilitator.

### **ISSUE**

Did the Department properly deny Petitioner's application for State Emergency Relief (SER) 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. Petitioner applied for SER home ownership services on January 15, 2016.
2. Petitioner requested assistance with a [REDACTED].
3. Petitioner has a current amount owing of [REDACTED].
4. Petitioner reported no income.
5. The application was denied on January 25, 2016 for being unaffordable.
6. On February 8, 2016, 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), and Department of Health and Human Services Emergency Relief Manual (ERM).

SER services may only be authorized if a client has sufficient income to cover ongoing housing expenses. ERM 207, pg. 1 (2015).

Housing obligations cannot exceed 75% of net income. ERM 207. Petitioner has no income; therefore, obligations exceed 75% of Petitioner's net income and the housing in question was properly determined to be unaffordable.

It should be noted that even if Petitioner had income, this application would have been denied. Per ERM 304, if [REDACTED] bills exceed \$2000, the application must be denied. Petitioner's tax bill is [REDACTED] therefore, as it exceeds the home ownership service limit, SER would have been denied even if Petitioner had income and the housing was affordable.

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 acted in accordance with Department policy when it denied Petitioner's application for SER benefits.

### **DECISION AND ORDER**

Accordingly, the Department's decision is **AFFIRMED**.

RC/tm



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**Robert J. Chavez**  
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]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

cc:

[REDACTED]