



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 20, 2016  
MAHS Docket No.: 16-003972  
Agency No.: [REDACTED]  
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Jacquelyn A. McClinton**

**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 May 12, 2016, from Detroit, Michigan. The Petitioner was represented by Petitioner. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department) was represented by [REDACTED] Hearing Facilitator.

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly deny Petitioner's request for SER funds?

**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 State Emergency Relief funds to assist with payment of his gas and electric bill.
2. Petitioner had previously been removed from a payment plan with the provider on [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].
3. On [REDACTED], the Department sent Petitioner an Application Notice which notified Petitioner that his request for SER funds had been denied.
4. On [REDACTED], Petitioner filed a Request for Hearing disputing the Department's actions.

### **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.

Additionally, under Department policy, a request for SER funds related to energy service must be denied if the energy provider or MEAP grantee has confirmed that the head of household or other adult group member has received, or is currently receiving, assistance from a MEAP provider for the current fiscal year. The DHS 1419 must refer the client back to the assisting MEAP grantee. This includes households that are currently enrolled in or who have been terminated from a provider-sponsored program through DTE, Consumers Energy or SEMCO Energy. ERM 301 (October 2015), p. 1.

In this case, the Department provided document that Petitioner had been removed from a payment plan through [REDACTED] twice in the current fiscal year. Petitioner confirmed that he was removed from a payment plan through [REDACTED] on [REDACTED] due to non-payment and again on [REDACTED] at his request. Petitioner testified that he requested to be removed on [REDACTED] because he could not afford the amount required under the payment plan. Because Petitioner had been removed from a [REDACTED] payment plan twice in this current fiscal year, he is not eligible for SER funds for energy services.

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 request for SER funds related to energy services.

### **DECISION AND ORDER**

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

JM/hw



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**Jacquelyn A. McClinton**

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]

**Petitioner**

[REDACTED]