



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

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

SHELLY EDGERTON
DIRECTOR



Date Mailed: June 9, 2016
MAHS Docket No.: 16-006067
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 June 1, 2016, from Detroit, Michigan. The Petitioner was represented by Petitioner. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department) was represented by [REDACTED] Eligibility Specialist.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly determine Petitioner's eligibility for 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. Petitioner is an ongoing FAP recipient.
2. In April 2016, Petitioner submitted a completed Redetermination.
3. The Department completed a review of Petitioner's case and discovered that Petitioner was no longer paying child support.
4. The Department removed the child support deduction from Petitioner's FAP budget.

5. On [REDACTED], the Department sent a Notice of Case Action which notified Petitioner that his FAP benefits would be decreased to \$16.00 per month effective [REDACTED].
6. 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 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.

Additionally, the Department is required to periodically redetermine or renew an individual's eligibility for active programs. The redetermination process includes thorough review of all eligibility factors. BAM 210 (January 2016), p. 1. In this case, Petitioner had been receiving a child support deduction which caused his monthly FAP benefits amount to be \$194.00 per month. Petitioner submitted a Redetermination in April 2016. The Department conducted a Consolidated Inquiry which allowed it to review Petitioner's child support payments dating back to June 2015. The Consolidated Child Support Inquiry revealed that Petitioner had not paid child support since June 2015. As a result, the Department recalculated Petitioner's eligibility for FAP benefits.

The Department presented a FAP net income budget showing that Claimant had a countable unearned income of \$1,284.00 as a result of a monthly pension. Based on Claimant's circumstances, he was eligible to receive a standard deduction of \$154.00 based on his one-person group size RFT 255 (October 2015). Claimant was also eligible for a shelter deduction in the amount of \$193.00. BEM 556 (July 2013), pp. 4-5. Claimant confirmed that he did not have any dependent care expenses or medical expenses. When the standard deduction and the shelter deduction are subtracted from Petitioner's income, his net income amount is \$937.00.

On [REDACTED], the Department sent Petitioner a Notice of Case Action which notified him that his FAP benefits would decrease to \$16.00 monthly effective [REDACTED]. Petitioner confirmed that with the exception of May 2016, he had not paid any child support. Petitioner testified that his tax return was intercepted in May 2016 in the

amount of \$150.00. Based on the information available to the Department at the time the Redetermination was submitted and based upon a net income of \$937.00, it properly determined that Claimant was entitled to a FAP benefit amount of \$16.00 per month. RFT 260 (October 2016), p. 12.

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 decreased Petitioner's FAP benefits to \$16.00 per month effective [REDACTED]

DECISION AND ORDER

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

JM/hw



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]