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: July 22, 2016 MAHS Docket No.: 16-008365

Agency No.:
Petitioner:

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Gary Heisler

## **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 July 20, 2016, from Lansing, Michigan. Petitioner appeared and testified. Hearing Facilitator appeared for the Department and testified. Department's Exhibit A, pages 1 - 22 was admitted into evidence.

# **ISSUE**

Did the Department properly determine Petitioner's Food Assistance Program (FAP) eligibility on June 11, 2016?

### FINDINGS OF FACT

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the competent, material, and substantial evidence on the whole record, finds as material fact:

- Petitioner was an ongoing recipient of Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits.
- 2. On April 4, 2016, Petitioner submitted a Redetermination (DHS-1010) and current earned income verification.
- 3. On June 11, 2016, the Department re-determined Petitioner's ongoing Food Assistance Program (FAP) eligibility. Petitioner was sent a Notice of Case Action (DHS-1605) which stated he was eligible for per month of Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits beginning July 1, 2016.
- 4. On June 16, 2016, Petitioner submitted a hearing request.

# **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.

During this hearing Petitioner's income and expenses, at the time of the Food Assistance Program (FAP) eligibility determination, were verified. The Food Assistance Program (FAP) budget was reviewed and the Department properly computed the claimant's net income and expenses. The federal regulations at 7 CFR 273.10 provide standards for the amount of a household's benefits. The Department in compliance with the federal regulations has prepared income limit and issuance tables which are set forth at Program Reference Manual, Table 250 and Table 260. The tables provide that a household with household size and net income of the Petitioner's is eligible for a Food Assistance Program (FAP) allotment of \$\frac{1}{2}\frac{1}

Petitioner asserted that there is a lot of variability in his income and the four, weekly pay check stubs do not necessarily represent his normal income. Petitioner was informed that he has the opportunity to report that fact to the Department along with a larger sample of earned income for evaluation that may impact his future benefits.

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 determined Petitioner's Food Assistance Program (FAP) eligibility on June 11, 2016.

# **DECISION AND ORDER**

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

GH/nr

Gary Heisler

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

