



RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

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

MIKE ZIMMER  
DIRECTOR

[REDACTED]

Date Mailed: March 29, 1016  
MAHS Docket No.: 16-002002  
Agency No.: [REDACTED]  
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

**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 March 23, 2016 from Lansing, Michigan. Petitioner was represented by himself. The Department was represented by Hearing Facilitator [REDACTED] and Assistance Payments Worker [REDACTED]

### **ISSUE**

Did the Department properly determine Petitioner's Food Assistance Program (FAP) eligibility on January 25, 2016?

### **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 was an ongoing recipient of Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits. Petitioner is allowed reported and verified medical expenses in his Food Assistance Program (FAP) financial eligibility budget in accordance with Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) 554 FAP Allowable Expenses and Expense Budgeting.
2. On January 25, 2016, Petitioner was sent a Notice of Case Action (DHS-1605) which stated his Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits would increase to \$ [REDACTED] for February 1, 2016 to February 29, 2016 and then decrease to \$ [REDACTED] for March 1, 2016 ongoing.
3. On February 12, 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.

Petitioner requested a hearing because he did not understand his Medicaid deductible benefit and why his Food Assistance Program (FAP) allotment kept changing. During the hearing Petitioner stated he now understands the Medicaid deductible so that issue does not need to be addressed. Petitioner met his Medicaid deductible for November and December 2015 as well as January 2016. The same medical expenses Petitioner submitted to meet his Medicaid deductible caused the variability in his Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits. Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) 554 FAP Allowable Expenses and Expense Budgeting provides:

### **MEDICAL EXPENSES**

#### **Application and Redetermination**

Consider **only** the medical expenses of SDV persons in the eligible group or SDV persons disqualified for certain reasons; see Expenses for Disqualified or Ineligible Persons in this item. Estimate an SDV person's medical expenses for the benefit period. Base the estimate on all of the following:

Verified allowable medical expenses.

Available information about the SDV member's medical condition and health insurance.

Changes that can reasonably be anticipated to occur during the benefit period.

#### ***During the Benefit Period***

A FAP group is not required to, but may voluntarily report changes during the benefit period. Process changes during the benefit period **only** if they are one of the following:

Voluntarily reported and verified during the benefit period such as expenses reported and verified for MA deductible.

Reported by another source and there is sufficient information and verification to determine the allowable amount without contacting the FAP group.

***One-Time-Only Expenses***

Groups that do not have a 24-month benefit period may choose to budget a one-time-only medical expense for one month or average it over the balance of the benefit period. Bridges will allow the expense in the first benefit month the change can affect.

***Exception:*** Groups that have 24-month benefit periods must be given the following options for one-time-only medical expenses billed or due within the first 12 months of the benefit period:

Budget it for one month.

Average it over the remainder of the first 12 months of the benefit period.

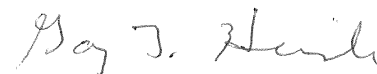
Average it over the remainder of the 24-month benefit period.

During this hearing Claimant's income and expenses, at the time of the Food Assistance Program (FAP) eligibility determination, were verified. The February and March 2016 Food Assistance Program (FAP) budgets was reviewed. The Department properly computed the claimant's net income and expenses. It is noted that Petitioner had medical expenses from January that impacted his February Food Assistance Program (FAP) allotment. There are no medical expenses for February so his March Food Assistance Program (FAP) allotment went back down. 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 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 January 25, 2016.

**DECISION AND ORDER**

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



GH/nr

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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

**DHHS**

[REDACTED]

**Petitioner**

[REDACTED]