



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: April 4, 2016
MAHS Docket No.: 16-002368
Agency No.: [REDACTED]
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Aaron McClintic

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 31, 2016, from Lansing, Michigan. The Petitioner was represented by himself. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department) was represented by [REDACTED] Hearing Facilitator and [REDACTED] Eligibility Specialist.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly determine Petitioner's Food Assistance Program 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 Food Assistance Program benefits on January 27, 2016.
2. The Department determined that Petitioner was entitled to \$ [REDACTED] per month in Food Assistance.
3. On February 17, 2016, Claimant requested hearing disputing the amount of Food Assistance.
4. Petitioner has \$ [REDACTED] in unearned income.
5. Petitioner pays \$ [REDACTED] in rent and is not responsible for utilities.

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.

In this case, Petitioner previously received \$ [REDACTED] in Food Assistance, utility expense was included in his budget. Petitioner confirmed at hearing that he is not responsible for utilities. Petitioner confirmed that the income used by the Department was accurate. Once the utility expense was removed from Petitioner's budget his FAP benefits were reduced to \$ [REDACTED] per month. Pursuant to Department policy on FAP budgeting, Petitioner's unearned income of \$ [REDACTED] was subtracted by the standard deduction of \$ [REDACTED] resulting with \$ [REDACTED] adjusted gross income. Petitioner received a \$ [REDACTED] excess shelter deduction which resulted with \$ [REDACTED] net income. A recipient with \$ [REDACTED] net income is entitled to \$ [REDACTED] in FAP benefits. Therefore the Department's determination of Petitioner's FAP benefit was proper and correct.

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 benefits.

DECISION AND ORDER

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

AM/las



Aaron McClintic

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]