



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: October 10, 2016
MAHS Docket No.: 16-008408
Agency No.: [REDACTED]
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Darryl Johnson

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 October 4, 2016, from Lansing, Michigan. The Petitioner did not appear. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department) was represented by Recoupment Specialist [REDACTED].

ISSUE

Did Petitioner receive an over-issuance (OI) of Food Assistance Program (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 was a recipient of FAP benefits from the Department.
2. The Department alleges Petitioner received a FAP OI during the period August 1, 2015, through January 31, 2016, due to Department error.
3. The Department alleges that Petitioner received \$ [REDACTED] OI that is still due and owing to the Department.
4. On June 8, 2016, the Department mailed a Notice of Overissuance (Exhibit 1 Pages F1 – F3), informing Petitioner of the alleged OI.

5. On June 17, 2016, the Department received Petitioner's hearing request, protesting the OI.

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), and Department of Health and Human Services Reference Tables Manual (RFT).

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 to .3015.

The Department presented evidence that Petitioner was an on-going FAP recipient. The Department incorrectly identified her as a "change reporter" and only counted part of her income when determining her FAP. The Department also used an incorrect amount for her housing expense. Because of those errors, she was awarded more in FAP than she would have been given if the budgets had been prepared based upon correct information. Once the Department discovered the error, it recalculated her budgets (Exhibit 1 Pages D1-D18) to determine the correct amount of benefits and the OI. The total OI that has been established is \$ [REDACTED].

As stated in BAM 700 (1/1/16) p 1, "When a client group receives more benefits than it is entitled to receive, MDHHS must attempt to recoup the overissuance." That is true regardless of whether the error was a "client error" or an "agency error." The policy contains the imperative "must attempt to recoup the overissuance." There is no discretion on the part of the Department or the Administrative Law Judge.

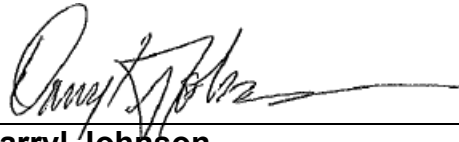
The Administrative Law Judge, based upon the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, finds that the Department established a FAP benefit OI to Petitioner totaling \$ [REDACTED].

DECISION AND ORDER

Accordingly, the Department is **AFFIRMED**.

The Department is ORDERED to initiate collection procedures for a \$ [REDACTED] OI in accordance with Department policy.

DJ/mc



Darryl Johnson
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]

Respondent

[REDACTED]