



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: September 28, 2016
MAHS Docket No.: 16-011701
Agency No.: [REDACTED]
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Kevin Scully

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. After due notice, telephone hearing was held on September 21, 2016, from Lansing, Michigan. The Petitioner represented herself. The Department was represented by [REDACTED], Eligibility Specialist.

ISSUE

Did the Department of Health and Human Services (Department) properly close Petitioner's Medical Assistance (MA) benefits for her disabled son?

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 Medical Assistance (MA) recipient.
2. On April 20, 2016, Petitioner received a paycheck with gross earnings of \$ [REDACTED] for the pay period of April 1, 2016, through April 30, 2016. Exhibit A, p 18.
3. Petitioner has countable cash assets in the amounts of \$ [REDACTED] \$ [REDACTED] \$ [REDACTED] and \$ [REDACTED] Exhibit A, p 16.
4. On August 3, 2016, the Department notified Petitioner that she was not eligible for Medical Assistance (MA) as of September 1, 2016. Exhibit A, p 26.
5. On August 15, 2016, the Department received Petitioner's request for a hearing protesting the closure of her Medical Assistance (MA) benefits.

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 Medical Assistance (MA) program is established by Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 USC 1396-1396w-5; 42 USC 1315; the Affordable Care Act of 2010, the collective term for the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Pub. L. No. 111-148, as amended by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, Pub. L. No. 111-152; and 42 CFR 430.10-.25. The Department (formerly known as the Department of Human Services) administers the MA program pursuant to 42 CFR 435, MCL 400.10, and MCL 400.105-.112k.

MAGI for purposes of Medicaid eligibility is a methodology which state agencies and the federally facilitated marketplace (FFM) must use to determine financial eligibility. It is based on Internal Revenue Service (IRS) rules and relies on federal tax information to determine adjusted gross income. It eliminates asset tests and special deductions or disregards. Every individual is evaluated for eligibility based on MAGI rules. The MAGI rules are aligned with the income rules that will be applied for determination of eligibility for premium tax credits and cost-sharing reductions through exchanges. Department of Health and Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) 500 (January 1, 2016), pp 3-4.

Modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) is a methodology for how income is counted and how household composition and family size are determined. It is based on federal tax rules for determining adjusted gross income. It eliminates asset tests and special deductions or disregards. Every individual is evaluated for eligibility based on MAGI rules. The MAGI rules are aligned with the income rules that will be applied for determination of eligibility for premium tax credits and cost-sharing reductions through exchanges. The 5% disregard is the amount equal to 5% of the Federal Poverty Level for the applicable family size. It is not a flat 5% disregard from the income. The 5% disregard shall be applied to the highest income threshold. The 5% disregard shall be applied only if required to make someone eligible for Medicaid.¹

Household income is the sum of the MAGI-based income of every individual included in the individual's household, minus an amount equivalent to 5 percentage points of the Federal poverty level for the applicable family size. 42 CFR 435.603.

The size of the household will be determined by the principles of tax dependency in the majority of cases. The household for a tax file, who is not claimed as a tax dependent, consists of the individual, the individual's spouse, and any tax dependents. MAGI Manual, p 12.

¹ Department of Health and Human Services Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) Related Eligibility Manual, pp 14-15. This manual is available on the internet at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdch/MAGI_Manual_457706_7.pdf

Petitioner's son is part of a MAGI household of four. On August 3, 2015, the Department notified Petitioner that her son was not eligible for MA benefits under any category of MA. Petitioner receives earned income from employment in the gross monthly amount of \$[REDACTED] which was determined from her paycheck for the pay period April 1, 2016, through April 30, 2016. This income is 249% of the federal poverty level for a group of four.

Persons may qualify under more than one MA category. Federal law gives them the right to the most beneficial category. The most beneficial category is the one that results in eligibility or the least amount of excess income. Department of Health and Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) 105 (July 1, 2016), p 2.

The income limit for a child under the age of 19 in a household of four is 160% of the federal poverty level, and the income limit to participate in the MICHild program is 212% of the federal poverty level. Department of Health and Human Services Reference Table Manual (RFT) 246 (April 1, 2014), p 1.

Assets means cash, any other personal property and real property. Real property is land and objects affixed to the land such as buildings, trees and fences. Condominiums are real property. Personal property is any item subject to ownership that is not real property. Countable assets cannot exceed the applicable asset limit. An asset is countable if it meets the availability tests and is not excluded. Available means that someone in the asset group has the legal right to use or dispose of the asset. Department of Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) 400 (July 1, 2016), pp 1-7.

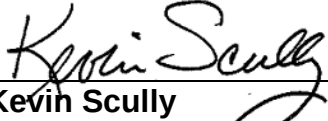
Petitioner reported countable cash assets in the amounts of \$[REDACTED] \$[REDACTED] \$[REDACTED] and \$[REDACTED]. After penalties for early withdrawal are deducted, the Department credibly found countable cash assets of \$[REDACTED]. This amount is reduced by \$3,000 for a two parent household and divided by the number of unmarried children in the household, which was two in this case. This leaves petitioner's son with deemed countable assets of [REDACTED]. Eligibility under disability based categories of MA benefits includes a requirement that countable assets cannot exceed \$3,000. BEM 400, pp 8-9.

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 denied Medical Assistance (MA) benefits for Petitioner's son as of September 1, 2016.

DECISION AND ORDER

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

KS/las


Kevin Scully
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 ate. A copy of the circuit court appeal must be filed with the Michigan Administrative Hearing System (MAHS).

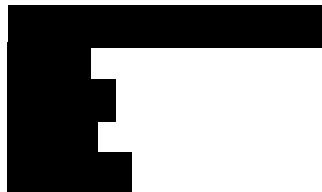
A party may request a rehearing or reconsideration of this Order if the request is received by MAHS within 30 days of the date the Order was issued. The party requesting a rehearing or reconsideration must provide the specific reasons for the request. MAHS will not review any response to a request for 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



Petitioner

