



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

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

SHELLY EDGERTON
DIRECTOR

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Date Mailed: May 9, 2017
MAHS Docket No.: 17-003828
Agency No.: [REDACTED]
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Jacquelyn A. McClinton

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 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] from Detroit, Michigan. Petitioner was represented by Petitioner. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department) was represented by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Assistance Payments Worker, and [REDACTED], Assistance Payments Supervisor.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly determine Petitioner's Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefit amount effective February 1, 2017?

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 is an ongoing FAP recipient.
2. On [REDACTED], Petitioner submitted a timely Redetermination.
3. The Department recalculated Petitioner's eligibility for FAP benefits and on [REDACTED], it sent Petitioner a Notice of Case Action which notified Petitioner that she had been approved for FAP benefits in the amount of \$ [REDACTED] per month.

4. On [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED], Petitioner filed a Request for Hearing disputing the Department's actions.

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.

Additionally, the Department is required to periodically redetermine or renew an individual's eligibility for active programs. The redetermination process includes thorough review of all eligibility factors. BAM 210 (January 2017), p. 1. In this case, the Department testified that Petitioner submitted a Redetermination on [REDACTED]. As a result, the Department recalculated Petitioner's eligibility for FAP benefits for the upcoming benefit period. Petitioner receives \$[REDACTED] in Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits and \$[REDACTED] per month in State SSI Payments (SSP) benefits. The Department testified that it calculates the SSP benefits at a rate of \$[REDACTED] per month. Accordingly, the Department calculated Petitioner's monthly income as \$[REDACTED] per month.

The Department submitted a budget in support of its position that Petitioner was entitled to \$[REDACTED] per month effective [REDACTED]. Based on Petitioner's one-person group size, she was eligible to receive a standard deduction of \$[REDACTED] RFT 255, p. 1. (October 2016). Petitioner confirmed that she has a housing expense of \$[REDACTED] per month. Petitioner further confirmed that her heating costs are included in her rent expense. Petitioner pays electric costs, and as such, receives an electric standard of \$[REDACTED] *Id.* Petitioner also pays a telephone expense and received a telephone standard of \$[REDACTED] *Id.* Based upon Petitioner's rent expense, electric standard and telephone standard, she was entitled to an excess shelter deduction of \$[REDACTED]. When the \$[REDACTED] standard deduction and the \$[REDACTED] shelter deduction are subtracted from Petitioner's income, her net income amount is \$[REDACTED].

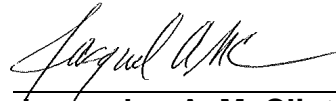
On [REDACTED], the Department sent Petitioner a Notice of Case Action, which notified her that she had been approved to receive \$[REDACTED] per month in FAP benefits effective [REDACTED]. Accordingly, based on the information available to the Department, and based upon a net income of \$[REDACTED] it properly determined that Petitioner was entitled to an FAP benefit amount of \$[REDACTED] per month. RFT 260 (October 2016), p. 8.

DECISION AND ORDER

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 decreased Petitioner's FAP benefits to \$ [REDACTED] per month effective [REDACTED].

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

JM/jaf



Jacquelyn A. McClinton
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

Petitioner

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

DHHS

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]