



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
MICHIGAN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING SYSTEM

SHELLY EDGERTON
DIRECTOR



Date Mailed: September 8, 2017
MAHS Docket No.: 17-008857
Agency No.: [REDACTED]
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Carmen G. Fahie

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; 42 CFR 438.400 to 438.424; 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 August 10, 2017, from Lansing, Michigan. The Petitioner was represented by herself. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department) was represented by [REDACTED] Assistance Payments Supervisor and [REDACTED] Eligibility Specialist.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly determine the Petitioner's eligibility for Food Assistance Program (FAP) and Family Independence Program (FIP)?

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the competent, material, and substantial evidence on the whole record, finds as material fact:

1. On March 31, 2017, the Petitioner applied for FAP and FIP benefits. Department Exhibit 1, pgs. 1-9.
2. The Petitioner receives child support. Department Exhibit 1, pg. 11.
3. On April 27, 2017, the Department Caseworker sent the Petitioner a Notice of Case Action, DHS 1605 that the Petitioner was approved for \$ [REDACTED] in FAP benefits for a household group of 2. Department Exhibit 1, pgs. 14-15.
4. On May 16, 2017, the Department Caseworker sent the Petitioner a Benefit Notice, DHS 176 that the Petitioner was denied for FIP benefits. Department Exhibit 1, pgs. 16-17.

5. On June 14, 2017, the Department received a hearing request from the Petitioner, contesting the Department's negative action.

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 Family Independence Program (FIP) was established pursuant to the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-193, and 42 USC 601 to 679c. The Department (formerly known as the Department of Human Services) administers FIP pursuant to 45 CFR 233-260, MCL 400.10, the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1-.119b, and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3101-.3131.

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, the Petitioner applied for FAP and FIP benefits on March 31, 2017. Department Exhibit 1, pgs. 1-9. The Petitioner receives child support. Department Exhibit 1, pg. 11. On April 27, 2017, the Department Caseworker sent the Petitioner a Notice of Case Action, DHS 1605 that the Petitioner was approved for \$ [REDACTED] in FAP benefits for a household group of 2. Department Exhibit 1, pgs. 14-15. On May 16, 2017, the Department Caseworker sent the Petitioner a Benefit Notice, DHS 176 that the Petitioner was denied for FIP benefits. Department Exhibit 1, pgs. 16-17. On June 14, 2017, the Department received a hearing request from the Petitioner, contesting the Department's negative action. BEM 500 and 554. BAM 105, 115, and 130.

During the hearing, the Department did not have any budgets for FIP and FAP in the hearing packet. In addition, there were pages missing in the hearing packet. 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 failed to satisfy its burden of showing that it acted in accordance with Department policy when it determined the Petitioner's eligibility for FIP and FAP.

DECISION AND ORDER

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

The Department is ordered to begin doing the following, in accordance with department policy and consistent with this hearing decision, within 10 days of the date of mailing of this decision and order of initiating a redetermination of the Petitioner's eligibility for FAP and FIP retroactive to her application dated March 31, 2017.

Based on policy, the Department should provide the Petitioner with written notification of the Department's revised eligibility determination and issue the Petitioner any retroactive benefits she/he may be eligible to receive, if any.

Carmen G. Fahie

CF/nr

Carmen G. Fahie
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]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Petitioner

[REDACTED]