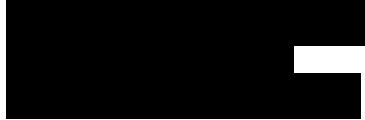




RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

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

SHELLY EDGERTON  
DIRECTOR



Date Mailed: October 26, 2017  
MAHS Docket No.: 17-012507  
Agency No.: [REDACTED]  
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Ellen McLemore**

**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 October 25, 2017, from Detroit, Michigan. Petitioner was present and represented herself. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department) was represented by Dionere Craft, Hearing Facilitator.

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly close Petitioner's Family Independence Program (FIP) benefit case?

**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 FIP recipient.
2. On August 31, 2017, the Department sent Petitioner a Notice of Case Action informing her that her FIP benefit case was being closed effective October 1, 2017, ongoing, because she exceeded the 48-month FIP time limit.
3. On September 6, 2017, Petitioner submitted 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 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.

In this case, Petitioner requested a hearing to dispute the Department's action of closing her FIP benefit case. On August 31, 2017, the Department sent Petitioner a Notice of Case Action informing her that her FIP benefit case would close effective October 1, 2017, ongoing. The Department informed Petitioner she was not eligible for FIP benefits because she received 48 months or more of FIP benefits.

The FIP program is not an entitlement. BEM 234 (July 2013), p. 1. Michigan operates a single Family Independence Program whose budgeting and accounting methods use both federal and state funds. BEM 234, p. 1. The state time limit reflects the number of remaining months an individual may receive FIP in the state of Michigan. BEM 234, p. 4. Michigan has a 48-month lifetime limit. BEM 234, p. 4. Each month an individual receives FIP, regardless of the funding source (federal or state), the individual receives a count of one month. BEM 234, p. 4. A family is ineligible for FIP when a mandatory group member in the program group reaches the 48-month state time limit. BEM 234, p. 1.

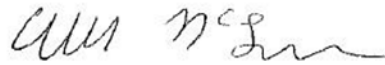
The state time limit allows exemption months in which an individual does not receive a count towards the individual's state time limit. BEM 234, p. 4. Effective Oct. 1, 2011, exemption months are months the individual is deferred from PATH for: (i) domestic violence; (ii) age 65 and older; (iii) a verified disability or long-term incapacity lasting longer than 90 days; or (iv) a spouse or parent who provides care for a spouse or child with verified disabilities living in the home. BEM 234, p. 4.

The Department provided the State of Michigan FIP Time Limit Counter showing each of the countable months that Petitioner received state funded FIP benefits (Exhibit B, pp. 1-4). The Department testified that it relied on this list to establish that 48 countable months of FIP benefits were issued to Petitioner during the relevant time period. The Michigan FIP Time Limit Counter shows that Petitioner received 98 months of state funded FIP benefits. Of those 98 months, 50 of them were exempt, as Petitioner was deferred from the PATH program for various reasons. The Michigan FIP Time Limit Counter shows Petitioner received 48 months of state funded FIP benefits that were not exempt. The Department's evidence was sufficient to establish that Petitioner received a total of 48 countable months of State funded FIP benefits.

**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 closed Petitioner's FIP benefit case.

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



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**Ellen McLemore**  
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**

MDHHS-Wayne-55-Hearings

**Petitioner**



BSC4  
D Shaw  
B Cabanaw  
E McLemore  
MAHS