



RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
LANSING

SHELLY EDGERTON  
DIRECTOR



Date Mailed: February 8, 2018  
MAHS Docket No.: 17-016830  
Agency No.: [REDACTED]  
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Janice Spodarek**

### **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, an administrative hearing was held on February 7, 2018, from Lansing, Michigan. Petitioner appeared and testified. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department or Respondent) was represented by Amber Gibson, Hearings Facilitator.

### **ISSUE**

Did the Department properly reduce Petitioner's 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. At all relevant times, Petitioner has been a beneficiary of the FAP program with a group size of 1.
2. On December 9, 2018, Respondent issued notice to reduce Petitioner's FAP allotment from \$107.00 to \$99.00 per month based on an increase of Petitioner's Social Security income increasing from \$844.00 to \$861.00, effective January 1, 2018.
3. On December 28, 2017 Petitioner filed a hearing request.

4. Petitioner's expenses exceed his income.

### **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.

The State SSI Payments (SSP) program is established by 20 CFR 416.2001-.2099 and the Social Security Act, 42 USC 1382e. The Department administers the program pursuant to MCL 400.10.

In this case, Petitioner argues that he does not receive his gross income and that the Department should count his net income.

Pursuant to federal regulations, state law, and Department policy found in BEM 500, the Department is required to count Petitioner's gross income in budgeting eligibility for the FAP program.


At an administrative hearing, Petitioner has the burden of proof as to eligibility criteria. Here, Petitioner has not met that burden; Petitioner offered no authority that would allow the Department to count net when law and policy requires that the Department count gross income.

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 budgeted Petitioner's increase in his gross income. Thus, the Respondent's action must be upheld.

**DECISION AND ORDER**

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

JS/hb

  
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**Janice Spodarek**  
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**

Amber Gibson  
5303 South Cedar  
PO BOX 30088  
Lansing, MI 48911

Ingham County, DHHS

BSC2 via electronic mail

M. Holden via electronic mail

D. Sweeney via electronic mail

**Petitioner**

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