



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

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

SHELLY EDGERTON
DIRECTOR

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Date Mailed: February 13, 2018
MAHS Docket No.: 18-000235
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 February 8, 2018, from Detroit, Michigan. Petitioner was present and represented himself. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department) was represented by [REDACTED], Lead Worker, and [REDACTED], Eligibility Specialist.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly deny Petitioner's application for 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. On December 14, 2017, Petitioner submitted an application for FAP benefits.
2. On December 15, 2017, the Department sent Petitioner a Notice of Case Action informing him that his application for FAP benefits was denied.
3. On January 3, 2018, 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 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 Department denied Petitioner's application because it alleged he had two felony drug-related convictions subsequent to August 22, 1996. An individual convicted of a felony for the use, possession, or distribution of controlled substances two or more times in separate periods will be permanently disqualified if both convictions occurred after August 22, 1996. BEM 203 (October 2017), p. 2.

In support of its denial, the Department presented a document from the Offender Tracking Information System (OTIS) through the Michigan Department of Corrections (Exhibit B). The OTIS reports shows that Petitioner had two drug-related felonies. The OTIS report only shows the date of the offense and the date of sentencing for the two separate cases. One of the offenses occurred on March 13, 1996. The date of sentencing was April 30, 1997. The Department was unable to provide any information as to the disposition date when Petitioner pled or was found guilty of the drug-related felony. BEM 203 specifically states the convictions must be after August 22, 1996. Since the date of incident on one of the charges was March 13, 1996, it is possible the conviction occurred prior to August 22, 1996, and therefore, could not be considered when disqualifying the Petitioner. Therefore, the Department failed to establish that Petitioner had two drug-related felony convictions after August 22, 1996. Thus, the Department failed to establish that it acted in accordance with policy when it denied Petitioner's application.

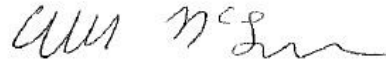
DECISION AND ORDER

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 failed to satisfy its burden of showing that it acted in accordance with Department policy when it denied Petitioner's FAP application.

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:

1. Reinstate and reprocess Petitioner's application for FAP benefits;
2. If Petitioner is eligible for FAP benefits, issue supplements he was entitled to receive but did not as of the date of the application;
3. Notify Petitioner of its FAP decision in writing.



EM/cg

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

Via Email:

[REDACTED]

Petitioner – Via First-Class Mail:

[REDACTED]