



RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

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

SHELLY EDGERTON  
DIRECTOR

[REDACTED]  
MI [REDACTED]

Date Mailed: July 19, 2018  
MAHS Docket No.: 18-004753  
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; and Mich Admin Code, R 792.11002. After due notice, an administrative hearing was held on July 18, 2018, from Lansing, Michigan. Petitioner represented herself. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] appeared as a witness. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department) was represented by Brad Reno, ES worker.

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly deny Petitioner's State Emergency Relief (SER) application?

**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 April 30, 2018 Petitioner applied for SER for assistance for a water utility bill for \$276.98 with the DHHS, Respondent.
2. The SER budget and co-payment calculation shows that Petitioner's income is \$1488.00 per month, with an income need standard of \$500.00. Petitioner has a co-payment of \$988.00.
3. On May 1, 2018 the Respondent denied on the grounds that Petitioner's \$988.00 copayment exceeds the request for \$276.98, an amount greater than the amount needed to resolve the emergency. Ex A.15.
4. On May 7, 2018 Petitioner filed a hearing request.

### **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 State Emergency Relief (SER) program is established by the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1-.119b. The SER program is administered by the Department (formerly known as the Department of Human Services) pursuant to MCL 400.10 and Mich Admin Code, R 400.7001-.7049.

Direct Support Services (DSS) is established by the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1-.119b. The program is administered by the Department pursuant to MCL 400.10 and 400.57a and Mich Admin Code R 400.3603.

In this case, Petitioner requested assistance for a \$276.98 water bill. Applicable policy is found at ERM 206. Under ERM 206 and other ERM budgeting policy, if the co-payment exceeds the amount needed to resolve the emergency, then the application must be denied.

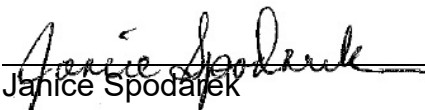
The record in the matter indicates that the co-payment of \$988.00 exceeds the bill of \$276.98. As such, state law and policy require that it be denied.

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 did and was required to deny Petitioner's application. Petitioner offered no policy or law that would entitle her to prevail where not otherwise eligible. As such, the Respondent's actions must be upheld.

### **DECISION AND ORDER**

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

JS/nr

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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) 763-0155; 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**

Lindsay Miller  
125 E. Union St 7th Floor  
Flint, MI  
48502

Genesee Union St. County DHHS- via  
electronic mail

BSC2- via electronic mail

T. Bair- via electronic mail

E. Holzhausen- via electronic mail

**Petitioner**

[REDACTED]  
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