RICK SNYDER GOVERNOR STATE OF MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS MICHIGAN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING SYSTEM

SHELLY EDGERTON DIRECTOR



Date Mailed: August 6, 2018 MAHS Docket No.: 18-006390 Agency No.: Petitioner:

## 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, a telephone hearing was held on August 1, 2018, from Lansing, Michigan. The Petitioner personally appeared and testified. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department) was represented by Valery Foley, HR.

### <u>ISSUE</u>

Did the Department properly deny Petitioner's FAP 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 May 24, 2018 Petitioner applied for FAP. Petitioner has three members in her household, herself, a -year-old, and a -year-old.
- 2. The FAP budget indicates that Petitioner is excess income.
- 3. Petitioner's -year-old daughter does not contribute to the household bills.
- 4. On June 12, 2018 the Department denied.
- 5. On June 24, 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 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.

Specific policy applicable to the case herein is found in RFT 250; BEM 545.

In this case, Petitioner did not dispute the amount or calculations on her FAP budget. Rather, Petitioner argues that her -year-old daughter should not be part of the FAP group as she does not contribute to the household bills. Petitioner offered no law, policy or other authority that would allow her to exclude her daughter from the FAP budget.

The Department testified that under BEM 545 the -year-old daughter is a mandatory member. Moreover, whether the daughter does or does not contribute is not relevant to FAP budgets.

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 denied Petitioner's FAP application.

#### **DECISION AND ORDER**

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

JS/nr

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

Latasha McKinney-Newell 26355 Michigan Ave. Inkster, MI 48141

Wayne 19 County DHHS- via electronic mail

BSC4- via electronic mail

M. Holden- via electronic mail

D. Sweeney- via electronic mail

, MI

Petitioner