



RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

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

SHELLY EDGERTON  
DIRECTOR

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] MI [REDACTED]

Date Mailed: November 7, 2018  
MAHS Docket No.: 18-010363  
Agency No.: [REDACTED]  
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Jeffrey Kemm

**HEARING DECISION**

Following Petitioner's request for a hearing, this matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9, 7 CFR 273.15, and Mich Admin Code, R 792.11002. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on November 5, 2018, from Lansing, Michigan. Petitioner, [REDACTED] appeared and represented himself. Petitioner did not have any additional witnesses. Eligibility Specialist, Glenn Crabtree, appeared and represented the Department. Assistance Payments Supervisor, Sara Terreros, appeared as a witness for the Department.

One exhibit was admitted into evidence during the hearing. A 23-page packet of documents provided by the Department was admitted collectively as the Department's Exhibit A.

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly determine 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. Petitioner is a FAP recipient.
2. Petitioner's monthly income is \$[REDACTED] Petitioner is homeless and does not pay a verifiable shelter expense.
3. On July 28, 2018, the Department issued a Notice of Case Action which notified Petitioner that his FAP benefit was decreasing to \$15.00 per month effective

September 1, 2018, because of a change in the heat and utility deduction amount.

4. On October 2, 2018, Petitioner filed a hearing request to dispute the reduction of his FAP benefit.

### **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 Department determines a client's monthly FAP benefit amount by determining the client's group size and countable household income and then looking that information up in its applicable Food Issuance Table. BEM 212 (January 1, 2017), BEM 213 (January 1, 2018), BEM 550 (January 1, 2017), BEM 554 (August 1, 2017), BEM 556 (April 1, 2018), and RFT 260 (October 1, 2017). Here, there is no evidence that the Department did not properly determine Petitioner's FAP benefit. Petitioner did not present any evidence to establish that his household income or allowable expenses were different than those used by the Department, and Petitioner did not present any evidence to establish that his group size was greater than that used by the Department. Based on a review of the budget used by the Department and the applicable Food Issuance Table, the Department used the correct standard deductions and correctly determined Petitioner's FAP benefit amount based on his countable household income and group size.

A change in the Department's policy prompted the Department to decrease Petitioner's FAP benefit. The Department applied its policy correctly. BEM 554 states that a shelter expense is only allowable when a client has or contributes to a verifiable shelter expense. Here, Petitioner is homeless, and he did not provide any proof to the Department to show that he is responsible for or contributes to a shelter expense. Therefore, the Department appropriately did not grant a shelter deduction to Petitioner.

Petitioner asserted that he has not been treated fairly by his caseworker. A complaint regarding alleged misconduct or mistreatment by a caseworker shall not be considered through the administrative hearing process but shall instead be referred to the agency customer service unit. Mich Admin Code, R 792.11002(3). Thus, I do not have

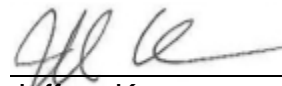
jurisdiction to address Petitioner's complaint about his caseworker. Petitioner's request must be addressed by the Department's customer service unit.

**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 did act in accordance with its policies and the applicable law when it determined Petitioner's food assistance benefit amount.

IT IS ORDERED the Department's decision is AFFIRMED.

JK/nr



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Jeffrey Kemm  
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**

Kimberly Kornoelje  
121 Franklin SE  
Grand Rapids, MI  
49507

Kent County DHHS- via electronic mail

BSC3- via electronic mail

M. Holden- via electronic mail

D. Sweeney- via electronic mail

**Petitioner**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
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[REDACTED]