



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

ORLENE HAWKS
DIRECTOR

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

Date Mailed: January 8, 2019
MAHS Docket No.: 18-012744
Agency No.: [REDACTED]
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Landis Lain

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 January 2, 2019, from Lansing, Michigan. Petitioner was represented by [REDACTED]. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department or Respondent) was represented by Christine Brown, Hearings Facilitator.

Respondent's Exhibit A pages 1-34 were admitted as evidence.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly determine Petitioner's Food Assistance Program (FAP) and Medical Assistance Program (MA) eligibility?

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 and MA benefit recipient.
2. On [REDACTED], 2018, the Department sent Petitioner a redetermination for the Food Assistance Program and Medicaid eligibility.
3. On February 27, 2018, Petitioner completed the redetermination.

4. On March 14, 2018, the Department sent Petitioner a Health Care Coverage Determination Notice informing her that she was approved for Medicaid Freedom to Work (FTW) benefits with an estimated \$0.00 premium amount.
5. On November 8, 2018, a Bridges system mass update was completed.
6. On November 9, 2018, the Department sent Petitioner a Health Care Coverage Determination Notice informing her that she was approved for FTW benefits with an estimated \$66.33 premium amount.
7. The November 30, 2018, Petitioner requested a hearing to contest the termination of Food Assistance Program eligibility and to contest the amount of the premium for Medical Assistance Freedom to Work.
8. The Department representative conceded on the record that the department used the wrong amount of income to review the premium.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The regulations governing the hearing and appeal process for applicants and recipients of public assistance in Michigan are found in the Michigan Administrative Code, MAC R 400.901-400.951. An opportunity for a hearing shall be granted to an applicant who requests a hearing because his or her claim for assistance has been denied. MAC R 400.903(1). Clients have the right to contest a Department decision affecting eligibility or benefit levels whenever it is believed that the decision is incorrect. The Department will provide an administrative hearing to review the decision and determine the appropriateness of that decision. BAM 600.

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's Representative stated that Petitioner's application should be reinstated and conceded on the record that FAP benefits and amount of premium should be redetermined using the appropriate income amounts. Petitioner agreed. Petitioner also requested that her case be transferred to another county.

On April 1, 2015, the Department policy requires automatic assignment and reassignment by BRIDGES for all related assistance payments cases. Per the Department's Representative, transfers are changes in the county or district responsible for application processing and ongoing maintenance. Case address establishes the district office of service. This is not an issue that can be addressed by this Administrative Law Judge.


DECISION AND ORDER

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. Initiate reinstatement of Petitioner's FAP and MA redetermination application to the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] 2018, application redetermination date;
2. Redetermine the amount of the Medicaid Freedom to Work Premium in compliance with Department policy;
3. Redetermine eligibility for FAP benefits; and
4. If Petitioner is otherwise eligible, pay to Petitioner any FAP benefits to which she is entitled from the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] 2018, application date forward.

LL/hb



Landis Lain
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

Randa Chenault
25620 W. 8 Mile Rd
Southfield, MI 48033

Oakland County (District 3), DHHS

BSC4 via electronic mail

M. Holden via electronic mail

D. Sweeney via electronic mail

Petitioner

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], MI [REDACTED]