



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

ORLENE HAWKS  
DIRECTOR

██████████  
██████████  
██████████ MI ██████████

Date Mailed: April 2, 2019  
MAHS Docket No.: 19-000342  
Agency No.: ██████████  
Petitioner: ██████████

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Kevin Scully

**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; 45 CFR 99.1 to 99.33; and 45 CFR 205.10. After due notice, telephone hearing was held on March 7, 2019, from Lansing, Michigan. Petitioner was represented by herself. The Department was represented by Mariah Schaefer.

**ISSUE**

Did the Department of Health and Human Services (Department) properly deny Petitioner's application for State Emergency Relief (SER) assistance?

**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 ██████████ 2018, Petitioner applied for State Emergency Relief (SER) benefits seeking assistance with repairs to her home furnace.
2. Department records indicate that the Department discovered through a collateral contact with a contractor that had supplied a cost estimate for the furnace repairs, that the furnace at Petitioner's home is functional. Exhibit A, p 3.
3. On ██████████ 2018, the Department notified Petitioner that her application for State Emergency Relief (SER) benefits had been denied. Exhibit A, p 1.
4. On January 7, 2019, the Department received Petitioner's request for a hearing protesting the denial of her State Emergency Relief (SER) application.

### **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.

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is the funding source for energy-related repairs. Repair or replacement of a non-functioning furnace is currently the only allowable energy-related home repair. Department of Health and Human Services Emergency Relief Manual (ERM) 304 (October 1, 2018), p 2.

On [REDACTED] 2018, the Department received Petitioner's SER application requesting assistance with furnace repairs. Department records indicate that the furnace at Petitioner's home is functioning. Petitioner did not offer any evidence that her furnace is not functioning. Therefore, the Department denied the SER application.

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 State Emergency Relief (SER) application.

### **DECISION AND ORDER**

Accordingly, the Department's decision is AFFIRMED.

KS/dh

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Kevin Scully**  
Administrative Law Judge  
for Robert Gordon, 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**

Mariah Schaefer  
3255 122nd Ave Ste 300  
Allegan, MI 49010

Allegan County, DHHS

BSC3 via electronic mail

T. Bair via electronic mail

E. Holzhausen via electronic mail

**Petitioner**

██████████  
██████████  
██████████ MI ██████████