



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
LANSING

ORLENE HAWKS  
DIRECTOR

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Date Mailed: April 2, 2019  
MAHS Docket No.: 19-001760  
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 27, 2019, from Lansing, Michigan. Petitioner was represented by himself. The Department was represented by Brenda Drewnicki.

**ISSUE**

Did the Department of Health and Human Services (Department) properly determine Petitioner's eligibility for 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 an ongoing Food Assistance Program (FAP) recipient.
2. On January 22, 2019, the Department received verification that Petitioner receives family contributions of ██████████ per months. Exhibit A, p 5.
3. Petitioner is responsible for housing expenses of ██████████, which includes heat but not electrical service. Exhibit A, p 6.
4. On February 12, 2018, the Department notified Petitioner that he is eligible for a \$45 monthly allotment of Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits effective February 1, 2019. Exhibit A, pp 9-13.

5. On February 19, 2019, the Department received Petitioner's request for a hearing protesting the amount of Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits he is receiving. Exhibit A, pp 2-3.

### **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.

A donation to an individual by family or friends is the individual's unearned income. Bridges counts the gross amount actually received, if the individual making the donation and the recipient are not members of any common eligibility determination group. Department of Health and Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) 503 (January 1, 2019), p 11.

Payment of an individual's bills by a third party directly to the supplier using the third party's money is not income to the individual. If the third party is paying the bill instead of paying money due the individual such as money owed for child support or owed on a loan, the payment is the individual's unearned income. Department of Health and Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) 500 (July 1, 2017), p 12.

Petitioner is an ongoing FAP recipient as a group of one. The Department received verification that Petitioner's sole source of income is from the contributions of a family member not part of Petitioner's benefit group. Department policy considers such contributions to be unearned income and is countable towards eligibility for FAP benefits.

Petitioner testified that he is no longer receiving family contributions. As Petitioner's circumstances change, his eligibility for FAP benefits in the future may change as well.

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 determined Petitioner's eligibility for Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits as of February 1, 2019.

**DECISION AND ORDER**

Accordingly, the Department's decision is AFFIRMED.

KS/dh

  
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**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**

Vivian Worden  
21885 Dunham Road  
Clinton Twp., MI 48036

Macomb County, DHHS

BSC4 via electronic mail

M. Holden via electronic mail

D. Sweeney via electronic mail

**Petitioner**

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