



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

ORLENE HAWKS
DIRECTOR

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Date Mailed: April 11, 2019
MAHS Docket No.: 19-002107
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 April 3, 2019, from Lansing, Michigan. Petitioner represented herself. The Department was represented by Haysem Hosmy.

ISSUE

Did the Department of Health and Human Services (Department) properly determine Petitioner's eligibility for Medical Assistance (MA) and 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 receives monthly Retirement, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (RSDI) in the gross monthly amount of ██████████, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) in the gross monthly amount of ██████████, and State Supplemental Security Income (SSP) in the gross monthly amount of ██████████. Exhibits 4 and 5.
2. Petitioner receives monthly earned income from employment in the gross monthly amount of ██████████.
3. On January 9, 2019, the Department notified Petitioner that she was eligible for the Medicare Savings Program (MSP) as of February 1, 2019. Exhibit 2.
4. On February 20, 2019, the Department notified Petitioner that she was not eligible for Medical Assistance (MA) as of April 1, 2019. Exhibit 1.

5. On February 20, 2019, the Department notified petitioner that she was eligible for a \$147 monthly allotment of Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits as of March 1, 2019. Exhibit 3.
6. On February 25, 2019, the Department received Petitioner's request for a hearing.

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 Medical Assistance (MA) program is established by Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 USC 1396-1396w-5; 42 USC 1315; the Affordable Care Act of 2010, the collective term for the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Pub. L. No. 111-148, as amended by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, Pub. L. No. 111-152; and 42 CFR 430.10-.25. The Department (formerly known as the Department of Human Services) administers the MA program pursuant to 42 CFR 435, MCL 400.10, and MCL 400.105-.112k.

On February 20, 2019, the Department notified Petitioner that she was not eligible for MA benefits, but that her benefits were only being closed under that case number. As an SSI recipient, Petitioner is eligible for MA benefits. Therefore, Petitioner failed to establish a negative action with respect to MA benefits.

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.

All earned and unearned income available is countable unless excluded by policy. Earned income means income received from another person or organization or from self-employment for duties for duties that were performed for compensation or profit. Unearned income means all income that is not earned, including but not limited to funds received from the Family Independence Program (FIP), State Disability Assistance (SDA), Child Development and Care (CDC), Medicaid (MA), Social Security Benefits (RSDI/SSI), Veterans Administration (VA), Unemployment Compensation Benefits (UCB), Adult Medical Program (AMA), alimony, and child support payments. The amount counted may be more than the client actually receives because the gross amount is used prior to any deductions. Department of Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) 500 (July 1, 2017).

Petitioner is a FAP recipient as a group of one. Petitioner receives unearned income in the gross monthly income of [REDACTED], which was determined by totaling her RSDI, SSI, and SSP benefits. Petitioner received earned income in the gross monthly amount of [REDACTED]. Petitioner's adjusted gross income of [REDACTED] was determined by reducing her total monthly income by 20% of her earned income, and by the \$158 standard deduction.

Petitioner is entitled to a [REDACTED] excess shelter deduction, but is only entitled to such a large deduction as an SSI recipient. This deduction was determined by adding her monthly housing expenses of [REDACTED] to the \$543 standard heat and utility deduction, then subtracting 50% of her adjusted gross income.

Petitioner's net income of [REDACTED] was determined by reducing her adjusted gross income by the excess shelter deduction. A group of one with a net income of [REDACTED] is entitled to a \$147 monthly allotment of FAP benefits. Department of Health and Human Services Reference Table Manual (RFT) 260 (October 1, 2018), p 3.

Petitioner argued that her caseworker discriminates against her.

A complaint as to alleged misconduct or mistreatment by a state employee shall not be considered through the administrative hearing process, but shall be referred to the department personnel director. Mich Admin Code, R 792.11002.

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.

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).

