



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
MICHIGAN OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS AND RULES

ORLENE HAWKS  
DIRECTOR

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Date Mailed: May 30, 2019  
MOAHR Docket No.: 19-002801  
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 May 2, 2019, from Lansing, Michigan. Petitioner was represented by herself. The Department was represented by Antoine Peoples.

### **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 ██████████ 2019, the Department received Petitioner's application for State Emergency Relief (SER) assistance with property taxes.
2. On February 28, 2019, the Department received a copy of a Notice of Property Tax Delinquency. Exhibit A, pp 2-3.
3. On March 4, 2019, the Department notified Petitioner that her State Emergency Relief (SER) application had been denied. Exhibit A, pp 4-6.
4. On March 13, 2019, the Department notified Petitioner that her State Emergency Relief (SER) application had been denied. Exhibit A, pp 8-9.
5. On March 12, 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.

Home ownership services payments are only issued to save a home threatened with loss due to mortgage foreclosure, land contract forfeiture, tax foreclosure or sale, court ordered eviction, or repossession for failure to meet a loan payment. First, taxes become delinquent, then, a year later, forfeiture occurs. Department of Health and Human Services Emergency Relief Manual (ERM) 304 (1-8), pp October 1, 2018.

Petitioner applied for SER assistance with her property taxes. Petitioner provided verification of delinquent property taxes, but no evidence of foreclosure, tax sale, or threat of property forfeiture was presented during the hearing. The Department denied Petitioner's SER application for failure to meet the requirements of ERM 304.

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 application for State Emergency Relief (SER) assistance with delinquent property taxes.

**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 Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules (MOAHR).

A party may request a rehearing or reconsideration of this Order if the request is received by MOAHR 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. MOAHR will not review any response to a request for rehearing/reconsideration.

A written request may be mailed or faxed to MOAHR. If submitted by fax, the written request must be faxed to (517) 763-0155; Attention: MOAHR 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**

Lori Duda  
30755 Montpelier Drive  
Madison Heights, MI 48071

Oakland County (District 2), DHHS

BSC4 via electronic mail

T. Bair via electronic mail

E. Holzhausen via electronic mail

**Petitioner**

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