



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

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

ORLENE HAWKS  
DIRECTOR

[REDACTED]  
MI [REDACTED]

Date Mailed: October 1, 2019  
MOAHR Docket No.: 19-009343  
Agency No.: [REDACTED]  
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Jeffrey Kemm

### **HEARING DECISION**

Following Petitioner's request for a hearing, this matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9, 7 CFR 273.15, and Mich Admin Code, R 792.11002. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on September 26, 2019, from Lansing, Michigan. Petitioner, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] appeared and represented herself. Respondent, Department of Health and Human Services (Department), had Brad Reno, Hearing Facilitator, appear as its representative. Neither party had any additional witnesses.

One exhibit was admitted into evidence during the hearing. A 48-page packet of documents provided by the Department was admitted collectively as the Department's Exhibit A.

### **ISSUE**

Did the Department properly determine Petitioner's Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefit for September 2019?

### **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 recipient.
2. On August 24, 2019, Petitioner gave birth to a child.
3. On August 24, 2019, Petitioner reported to the Department that her household had a new group member, her newborn child.
4. The Department added Petitioner's newborn child as a group member.

5. On August 29, 2019, the Department issued a notice of case action which notified Petitioner that her FAP benefit was going to be increased to \$762.00 effective October 1, 2019.
6. Petitioner requested a hearing to dispute the Department's decision because the Department did not increase her FAP benefit effective [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

### **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.

In this case Petitioner requested a hearing because the Department did not add her newborn child as a group member until October 1, 2019, when she reported the member add on August 24, 2019. A member add that increases benefits is effective the month after it is reported. BEM 212 (July 1, 2019). Since Petitioner reported her new group member in August, the Department should have added the group member and increased Petitioner's FAP benefits the following month, September.

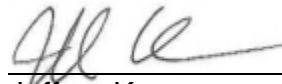
Petitioner presented sufficient evidence to establish that the Department did not act in accordance with its policies and the applicable law. Therefore, the Department's decision is reversed.

**DECISION AND ORDER**

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 did not act in accordance with its policies and the applicable law when it determined Petitioner's food assistance benefit amount for September 2019.

IT IS ORDERED the Department's decision is **REVERSED**. The Department shall begin to implement this decision within 10 days.

JK/nr



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Jeffrey Kemm  
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 Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules  
Reconsideration/Rehearing Request  
P.O. Box 30639  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-8139

**DHHS**

Tamara Morris  
125 E. Union St 7th Floor  
Flint, MI  
48502

Genesee Union St. County DHHS- via  
electronic mail

BSC2- via electronic mail

M. Holden- via electronic mail

D. Sweeney- via electronic mail

**Petitioner**

[REDACTED]  
MI