



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

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

ORLENE HAWKS
DIRECTOR

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], MI [REDACTED]

Date Mailed: December 11, 2019
MOAHR Docket No.: 19-011397
Agency No.: [REDACTED]
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Landis Lain

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; 42 CFR 438.400 to 438.424; 45 CFR 99.1 to 99.33; and 45 CFR 205.10; and Mich Admin Code, R 792.11002. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on December 5, 2019, from Lansing, Michigan. The Petitioner was represented by Petitioner, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department or Respondent) was represented by Cynthia Allard, PATH Worker and Ryan Clemons, Family Independence Manager.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly cancel Petitioner's Medical Assistance (MA) Program 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 was a MA benefit recipient based on eligibility for SSI.
2. The Social Security Administration terminated Petitioner's SSI in June 2019.
3. On September 4, 2019, Petitioner returned redetermination forms.
4. On [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Petitioner filed a Request for Hearing to contest the Department's negative action.
5. On October 21, 2019, budgets were calculated, and it was determined that Petitioner was over income limit for Medical Assistance, State Disability Assistance and Food Assistance Program benefits.

6. On October 25, 2019, the Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules received a hearing summary and attached documents

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The regulations governing the hearing and appeal process for applicants and recipients of public assistance in Michigan are found in the Michigan Administrative Code, MAC R 400.901-400.951. An opportunity for a hearing shall be granted to an applicant who requests a hearing because his or her claim for assistance has been denied. MAC R 400.903(1). Clients have the right to contest a Department decision affecting eligibility or benefit levels whenever it is believed that the decision is incorrect. The Department will provide an administrative hearing to review the decision and determine the appropriateness of that decision. BAM 600.

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 Family Independence Program (FIP) was established pursuant to the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-193, and 42 USC 601 to 679c. The Department (formerly known as the Department of Human Services) administers FIP pursuant to 45 CFR 233-260, MCL 400.10, the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1-.119b, and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3101-.3131.

The payment standard for the Family Independence Program family of four is \$597. Petitioner had income in excess of \$597 in the counted month.

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.

Federal regulations at 7 CFR 271; 273 provides standards for the determination of Food Assistance Program budgeting. The Department follows the program reference manual, tables, charts, schedules, Table 240-1.

Income means a benefit or payment received by an individual which is measured in money. It includes money an individual owns even if not paid directly such as income paid to a representative. Income remaining after applying the policy in the income related items is called countable. This is the amount used to determine eligibility and benefit levels. Count all income that is not specifically excluded. BEM 500, page 1

Gross income is the amount of income before any deductions such as taxes or garnishments. This may be more than the actual amount an individual receives. BEM 500, pages 4-5

Always calculate income on a calendar month basis to determine eligibility and benefit amounts. Use income from a month specified in this item for the benefit month being considered. Budget the entire amount of earned and unearned countable income. Every case is allowed the standard deduction shown in Reference Tables Manual (RFT) 255. Document income budgeting on either a manually calculated or an automated FAP worksheet. (BEM 550, page 1)

Use only available, countable income to determine eligibility. The Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) 500 series defines countable income. BEM 505 defines available income and income change processing. This item describes income budgeting policy.

In the instant case, Petitioner earns \$ [REDACTED]. She was given an earned income deduction of \$ [REDACTED] for a total of \$ [REDACTED]. Petitioner was also given a \$172 standard deduction for a total adjusted gross income of \$ [REDACTED]. The maximum net income for a 4-person home is \$2146. Petitioner was over the income limit for the counted month.

A review of Petitioner's case reveals that the Department budgeted the correct amount of income received by the Petitioner at the time of determination. Petitioner's deductions and shelter allotment are governed by Food Assistance Program and Family Independence Program policy and cannot be changed by the Department or this Administrative Law Judge. If Petitioner provides the Department with information that Petitioner now receives less monthly earned income, the Department can reassess Petitioner's eligibility for Program benefits.

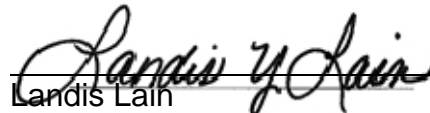
A preponderance of evidence is evidence which is of a greater weight or more convincing than evidence offered in opposition to it. It is simply that evidence which outweighs the evidence offered to oppose it *Martucci v Detroit Commissioner of Police*, 322 Mich 270; 33 NW2d 789 (1948).

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 has established by the necessary competent, material and substantial evidence on the record that it acted in accordance with Department policy when it cancelled Petitioner's Program benefits based upon excess income. The Department has established the case by a preponderance of evidence on the record.

Accordingly, the Department's decision is **AFFIRMED**.

LL/nr



Landis Lain
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

Courtney Jenkins
22 Center Street
Ypsilanti, MI
48198

Washtenaw County DHHS- via electronic
mail

BSC4- via electronic mail

D. Smith- via electronic mail

EQAD- via electronic mail

Petitioner

[REDACTED]
MI