



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: January 3, 2020
MOAHR Docket No.: 19-012973
Agency No.: [REDACTED]
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Janice Spodarek

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 hearing was held on January 2, 2020, from Lansing, Michigan. Petitioner appeared unrepresented. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department) was represented by Desiree Howell, APW and April Williams, APS.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly calculate Petitioner's 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. At all relevant times prior to the action herein, Petitioner has been a beneficiary of the FAP program.
2. On October 23, 2019, the Department issued a Notice of Case Action informing Petitioner that effective October 1, 2019, her FAP benefits will be reduced from \$72.00 to \$15.00 per month, due to a removal of a \$543.00 utility expense as Petitioner began to reside in Section 8 housing, which includes all utilities.
3. Petitioner's expenses exceed her income.
4. On November 26, 2019, Petitioner filed a hearing request disputing her allotment.

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.

Applicable policy and procedure are found primarily at BEM 554. Corresponding federal regulations are found at 7 CFR 273.10.

Beneficiaries of welfare programs asserting eligibility have the burden of proof at administrative hearings by a preponderance of the evidence standard.

In this case, the Department submitted a FAP budget showing the income and expenses utilized in calculating Petitioner's FAP allotment. At the administrative hearing, Petitioner did not dispute the budget. Petitioner failed to bring forth any evidence or law that would meet her burden to show that the budget was not correct. As such, 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 calculated Petitioner's \$15.00 allotment effective October 1, 2019.

DECISION AND ORDER

Accordingly, the Department's decision is AFFIRMED.

JS/ml



Janice Spodarek
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

Denise McCoggle
27260 Plymouth Rd.
Redford, MI 48239

Wayne (District 15) County DHHS – Via
Electronic Mail

BSC4 – Via Electronic Mail

M. Holden – Via Electronic Mail

D. Sweeney – Via Electronic Mail

Petitioner

[REDACTED] – Via First Class Mail
[REDACTED]
MI [REDACTED]