



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
MICHIGAN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING SYSTEM

ORLENE HAWKS  
DIRECTOR

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Date Mailed: February 4, 2019  
MAHS Docket No.: 18-012868  
Agency No.: [REDACTED]  
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Jacquelyn A. McClinton**

**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; 42 CFR 431.200 to 431.250. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on January 16, 2019, from Detroit, Michigan. Petitioner represented himself. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department) was represented by [REDACTED], Medical Contact Worker.

**ISSUE**

Whether the Department properly determined that Petitioner was not disabled for purposes of the State Disability Assistance (SDA) benefit programs?

**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 March 8, 2018, Petitioner submitted an application seeking cash assistance on the basis of a disability.
2. On September 24, 2018, the Disability Determination Service (DDS)/Medical Review Team (MRT) found Petitioner not disabled for purposes of the SDA program (Exhibit A, pp. 5-9).
3. Petitioner does not have a pending claim with the Social Security Administration (SSA).
4. On October 11, 2018, the Department sent Petitioner a Benefit Notice which notified Petitioner that his application for SDA benefits had been denied. (Exhibit A, p. 3).

5. On December 10, 2018, the Department received Petitioner's timely written request for hearing (Exhibit A, p. 2).

### **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), and Department of Health and Human Services Reference Tables Manual (RFT).

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.

The State Disability Assistance (SDA) program, which provides financial assistance for disabled persons, was established by 2004 PA 344. The Department administers the SDA program pursuant to 42 CFR 435, MCL 400.10 *et seq.* and Mich Admin Code, Rules 400.3151 – 400.3180. A person is considered disabled for SDA purposes if the person has a physical or mental impairment which meets federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) disability standards for at least ninety days. Receipt of SSI benefits based on disability or blindness, or the receipt of MA benefits based on disability or blindness, automatically qualifies an individual as disabled for purposes of the SDA program.

A disabled person is eligible for SDA. BEM 261 (July 2014), p. 1. An individual automatically qualifies as disabled for purposes of the SDA program if the individual receives Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Medical Assistance (MA-P) benefits based on disability or blindness. BEM 261, p. 2. Otherwise, to be considered disabled for SDA purposes, a person must have a physical or mental impairment lasting, or expected to last, at least ninety days which meets federal SSI disability standards, meaning the person is unable to do any substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment. BEM 261, pp. 1-2; 20 CFR 416.901; 20 CFR 416.905(a).

As a condition of ongoing SDA eligibility, a client must apply for benefits with the Social Security Administration and timely appeal any SSA denial. BEM 271 (January 2016), pp. 1, 7-9. When SSA determines that a disability does not exist and the SSA decision is final, the SDA case must be processed for closure. BEM 271, p. 9. An SSA decision is final when (i) it was made after January 1, 1990; (ii) no further appeals may be made at SSA; (iii) the client failed to file an appeal at any step with SSA's 60-day limit; and (iv) the client is not claiming a totally different disabling condition than the condition SSA based its determination on or an additional impairment, change or deterioration in his condition that SSA has reviewed and not made a determination on yet. BEM 271, p. 9.

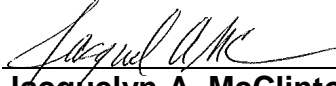
In the instant case, Petitioner testified that he has previously applied for benefits with the SSA "a few years ago." Petitioner indicated that in June 2018, he received notice from the SSA that his application had been denied. Petitioner indicated that he did not file an appeal to the denial because he has been too sick. The Department was able to access SSA records during the hearing and confirmed that Petitioner does not have a pending claim with the SSA. It is therefore found, that Petitioner is not entitled to SDA benefits.

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 March 8, 2018 application for SDA benefits.

**DECISION AND ORDER**

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

JAM/tlf

  
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**Jacquelyn A. McClinton**  
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).

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

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

**Via Email:**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
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**Petitioner – Via First-Class Mail:**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
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