



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
LANSING

ORLENE HAWKS  
DIRECTOR

[REDACTED], MI [REDACTED]

Date Mailed: March 6, 2019  
MAHS Docket No.: 19-000627  
Agency No.: [REDACTED]  
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

**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 February 27, 2019, from Lansing, Michigan. Petitioner was represented by himself. The Department was represented by Maia Elvine-Fair and Jamie Titus.

**ISSUE**

Did the Department of Health and Human Services (Department) properly determine Petitioner's eligibility for Food Assistance Program (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. On December 13, 2018, Petitioner was an ongoing Food Assistance Program (FAP) recipient as a group of one when the Department received his Redetermination (DHS-1010) form. Exhibit A, pp 3-10.
2. Petitioner receives monthly pension income in the gross monthly amount of \$306. Exhibit A, p 12.
3. Petitioner receives monthly earned income from employment in the gross monthly amount of \$493. Exhibit A, pp 16-17.
4. On January 15, 2019, the Department notified Petitioner that he was eligible for a \$29 monthly allotment of Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits effective February 1, 2019. Exhibit A, pp 21-24.

5. On January 18, 2019, the Department received Petitioner's verbal request for a hearing protesting the amount of Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits he is receiving. Exhibit A, p 1.

### **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.

All earned and unearned income available is countable unless excluded by policy. Earned income means income received from another person or organization or from self-employment for duties that were performed for compensation or profit. Unearned income means all income that is not earned, including but not limited to funds received from the Family Independence Program (FIP), State Disability Assistance (SDA), Child Development and Care (CDC), Medicaid (MA), Social Security Benefits (RSDI/SSI), Veterans Administration (VA), Unemployment Compensation Benefits (UCB), Adult Medical Program (AMA), alimony, and child support payments. The amount counted may be more than the client actually receives because the gross amount is used prior to any deductions. Department of Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) 500 (July 1, 2017).

All income is converted to a standard monthly amount. If the client is paid weekly, the Department multiplies the average weekly amount by 4.3. If the client is paid every other week, the Department multiplies the average bi-weekly amount by 2.15. Department of Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) 505 (October 1, 2017), pp 7-8.

Petitioner was an ongoing FAP recipient as a group of one when the Department redetermined his eligibility for ongoing benefits. Petitioner receives a monthly pension payment in the gross monthly amount of \$306, which was determined by dividing the annual pension income he reported to the IRS by 12 months. Petitioner receives earned income in the gross monthly amount of \$493, which was determined by multiplying his gross bi-weekly paycheck by the 2.15 conversion factor as directed by BEM 505. Petitioner's adjusted gross income of \$542 was determined by subtracting the 20% earned income deduction from his wages and the \$158 standard deduction from his total monthly income.

Petitioner reported to the Department that he lives with another person not included in his FAP benefit group and that he does not have any housing expenses. Therefore, Petitioner does not receive a deduction for housing expenses.

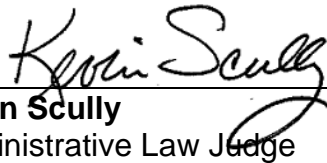
With no shelter expenses, Petitioner's net monthly income is the same as his gross adjusted income. A group of one with a net income of \$542 is entitled to a \$29 monthly allotment of FAP benefits.

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 determined Petitioner's eligibility for Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits effective February 1, 2019.

**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 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

**DHHS**

Sarina Baber  
22 Center Street  
Ypsilanti, MI 48198

Washtenaw County, DHHS

BSC4 via electronic mail

M. Holden via electronic mail

D. Sweeney via electronic mail

**Petitioner**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED], MI [REDACTED]