



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: December 23, 2019
MOAHR Docket No.: 19-012409
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, a telephone hearing was held on December 18, 2019, from Lansing, Michigan. Petitioner was represented by [REDACTED]. Jacqueline Arabo acted as a translator. The Department of Health and Human Services was represented by Crystal Hackney.

ISSUE

Did the Department of Health and Human Services (Department) properly determine Petitioner's eligibility for the Food Assistance Program (FAP)?

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 an ongoing Food Assistance Program (FAP) recipient as a household of three on September 18, 2019, when the Department received her Redetermination (DHS-1010) form. Exhibit A, pp 12-19.
2. A member of Petitioner's household receives monthly earned income from employment in the gross monthly amount of \$1,846. Exhibit A, pp 23-26.
3. Petitioner's spouse receives monthly social security benefits in the gross monthly amount of \$679.
4. Petitioner is responsible for housing expenses in the monthly amount of \$1,500 and she is responsible for heating expenses separately from housing.

5. On November 13, 2019, the Department received Petitioner's request for a hearing protesting her current level of Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits. Exhibit A, pp 4-5.

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 is an ongoing FAP recipient as a group of three and on September 18, 2019, the Department initiated a routine review of her eligibility for ongoing benefits. The household received earned income from employment in the gross monthly amount of \$1,846, which was determined by multiplying the average bi-weekly gross income by the 2.15 conversion factor as required by BEM 505. The household also receives social security benefit in the gross monthly amount of \$679. Petitioner's adjusted gross income of \$1,994 was determined by reducing the earned income by the 20% earned income deduction and the \$161 standard deduction.

Petitioner is entitled to a \$1,143 deduction for shelter expenses, which was determined by reducing the total of the \$1,500 housing expense and the \$543 standard heat and utility deduction by 50% of the adjusted gross income. Petitioner would not be entitled to such a large shelter deduction if the household did not contain a disabled person.

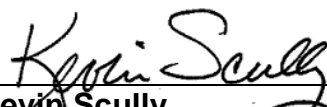
Petitioner's net income of \$1,778 was determined by reducing the adjusted gross income by the shelter deduction. A group of one with a monthly net income of \$1,788 is entitled to a \$217 monthly allotment of Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits. Department of Health and Human Services Reference Table Manual (RFT) 260 (October 1, 2019), p 14.

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 the Food Assistance Program (FAP).

DECISION AND ORDER

Accordingly, the Department's decision is AFFIRMED.

KS/hb



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 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

Linda Gooden
25620 W. 8 Mile Rd
Southfield, MI 48033

Oakland County (District 3), DHHS

BSC4 via electronic mail

M. Holden via electronic mail

D. Sweeney via electronic mail

Petitioner

[REDACTED], MI [REDACTED]