



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 23, 2019
MOAHR Docket No.: 19-012557
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 19, 2019, from Lansing, Michigan. Petitioner was represented by himself. The Department of Health and Human Services was represented by Lacy Miller.

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 recipient of Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits as a group of one on November 1, 2019, when the Department received his Mid-Certification Contact Notice (DHS-2240). Petitioner reported that his circumstances had not changed. Exhibit A, pp 7-9.
2. Petitioner receives monthly Retirement, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (RSDI) in the gross monthly amount of \$1,106. Exhibit A, pp 10-12.
3. Petitioner is responsible for pay a \$135.50 premium for Medicare Part B coverage.
4. Petitioner is responsible for a \$287 monthly housing expense, and he is responsible for heating expenses separately from housing.

5. On November 5, 2019, the Department notified Petitioner that he was eligible for a \$52 monthly allotment of Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits as of December 1, 2019. Exhibit A, pp 13-17.
6. On November 18, 2019, the Department received Petitioner's request for a hearing. Exhibit A, pp 18-19.
7. On November 20, 2019, the Department notified Petitioner that he was eligible for a \$55 monthly allotment of Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits as of December 1, 2019. Exhibit A, pp 20-25.

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).

The Department will consider only the medical expenses of senior/disabled/veteran (SDV) persons in the eligible group or SDV persons disqualified for certain reasons. Department of Health and Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) 554 (August 1, 2017), pp 8 – 9.

The Medical Expenses amount is determined by totaling allowable monthly medical expenses (rounded to whole dollar amounts) and reducing this amount by a \$35 medical deduction. Department of Health and Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) 556 (July 1, 2013), p 4.

Petitioner is an ongoing FAP recipient as a group of one. Petitioner receives a gross monthly income of \$1,106, which consists of his social security benefits. Petitioner's adjusted gross income of \$844 was determined by reducing his monthly income by the \$161 standard deduction and a \$101 medical expense deduction.

Petitioner's monthly medical deduction of \$101 was determined by reducing his \$135 expense for his Medicare Part B premium by the standard \$35 deduction as directed by BEM 556.

Petitioner is entitled to a \$383 excess shelter deduction, which was determined by reducing the total of his \$287 monthly housing expense and the \$518 standard heat and utility deduction by 50% of his adjusted gross income.

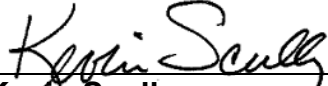
Petitioner's net income of \$461 was determined by reducing his adjusted gross income by his shelter deduction. A group of one with a net monthly income of \$461 is entitled to a \$55 monthly allotment of FAP benefits. Department of Health and Human Services Reference Table Manual (RFT) 260 (October 1, 2019), pp 7.

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) as of December 1, 2019.

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

Erin Bancroft
105 W. Tolles Drive
St. Johns, MI 48879

Clinton County, DHHS

BSC2 via electronic mail

M. Holden via electronic mail

D. Sweeney via electronic mail

Petitioner

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED], MI [REDACTED]