



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: February 5, 2020  
MOAHR Docket No.: 19-013294  
Agency No.: [REDACTED]  
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Landis Lain

### **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 telephone hearing was held on January 30, 2020, from Lansing, Michigan. The Petitioner was represented by Petitioner, [REDACTED]. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department or Respondent) was represented by Melissa Stanley, Hearings Facilitator and Rollin Carter, Hearings Facilitator.

### **ISSUE**

Did the Department properly deny Petitioner's application for State Emergency Relief (SER)?

### **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 [REDACTED] 2019, Petitioner filed an application for State Emergency Relief.
2. On September 5, 2019, a SER Decision Notice (DHS-1419) was issued approving non-heat electricity and denying heat service request because Petitioner did not meet program requirements.
3. On [REDACTED], 2019, Petitioner filed a second application for SER.
4. On November 7, 2019, a SER Decision Notice (DHS-1419) was issued approving non-heat electricity heat service, requesting Petitioner's co-payment by November 30, 2019.

5. Verification of co-payment was not received by the Department.
6. The Department conceded on the record that the application was not properly processed, and that Petitioner's application was improperly withdrawn by the caseworker. (Respondent's Exhibit A page 22)
7. On December 9, 2019, Petitioner filed a Request for Hearing to contest the Department's negative action.
8. On December 23, 2019, the Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules received a Hearing Summary and attached documents.

### **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 State Emergency Relief (SER) program is established by the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1-.119b. The SER program is administered by the Department (formerly known as the Department of Human Services) pursuant to MCL 400.10 and Mich Admin Code, R 400.7001-.7049.

The Department caseworker conceded on the record that Petitioner's application was withdrawn improperly.

### **DECISION AND ORDER**

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 has not established by the necessary competent, material and substantial evidence on the record that it acted in accordance with Department policy when it withdrew Petitioner's August 29, 2019 SER application improperly. The Department has not established the case by a preponderance of evidence on the record.

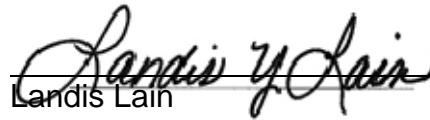
Accordingly, the Department's decision is **REVERSED**.

THE DEPARTMENT IS ORDERED TO BEGIN DOING THE FOLLOWING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH DEPARTMENT POLICY AND CONSISTENT WITH THIS HEARING DECISION, WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE DATE OF MAILING OF THIS DECISION AND ORDER:

1. Reinstate Petitioner's [REDACTED], 2019 SER application;
2. Re-evaluate Petitioner's eligibility for SER.

3. If Petitioner is otherwise eligible, pay to Petitioner any SER benefits to which he is entitled.

LL/nr



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Landis Lain  
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**

Kathleen Verdoni  
411 East Genesee  
PO Box 5070  
Saginaw, MI  
48607

Saginaw County DHHS- via electronic  
mail

BSC2- via electronic mail

T. Bair- via electronic mail

E. Holzhausen- via electronic mail

**Petitioner**

[REDACTED] - via first class mail  
[REDACTED], MI  
[REDACTED]