



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: February 18, 2020
MOAHR Docket No.: 20-000371
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 February 13, 2020, from Lansing, Michigan. Petitioner was represented by her Authorized Representative [REDACTED]. The Department of Health and Human Services was represented by Crystal Hackney and Troylynn Washington.

ISSUE

Did the Department of Health and Human Services (Department) properly deny Petitioner's application for Food Assistance Program (FAP) and Medical Assistance (MA) 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 [REDACTED], 2019, the Department received Petitioner's application for assistance where she designated Lesa Tripp as her Authorized Representative. Exhibit A, pp 8-14.
2. On December 12, 2019, the Department sent Petitioner a Verification Checklist (DHS-3503) requesting, among other things, verification of Petitioner's pension income by December 12, 2019. Exhibit A, pp 20-23.
3. On December 17, 2019, the Department received a statement showing pension income from the Athene Annuity and Life Company. Exhibit A, p 24.

4. On January 6, 2020, the Department notified Petitioner that she was not eligible for Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits effective December 11, 2019. Exhibit A, pp 6-7.
5. On January 8, 2020, the Department notified Petitioner that she was not eligible for Medical Assistance (MA) effective January 1, 2019. Exhibit A, pp 28-30.
6. On January 13, 2020, the Department received Petitioner's request for a hearing protesting the denial of her application for Food Assistance Program (FAP) and Medical Assistance (MA) 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 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 Medicare Savings Programs are SSI-related MA categories. There are three categories of Medicare Savings Program (MSP) benefits including the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB), the Special Low Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB), and the Additional Low Income Medicare Beneficiary (ALMB). QMB pays Medicare premiums, and Medicare coinsurances, and Medicare deductibles. QMB coverage begins the calendar month after the processing month. SLMB pays Medicare Part B premiums. SLMB coverage is available for retro MA months and later months. ALMB pays Medicare Part B premiums provided funding is available. The Department of Community Health notifies the Department of Human Services if funding is available. ALMB coverage is available for retro MA months and later months. Department of Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) 165 (January 1, 2018), pp 2-4.

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.

Clients must cooperate with the local office in determining initial and ongoing eligibility and this includes the completion of necessary forms. Department of Human Services Bridges Assistance Manual (BAM) 105 (October 1, 2019), p 9.

Verification means documentation or other evidence to establish the accuracy of the client's verbal or written statements. Verification is usually required at application/redetermination and for a reported change affecting eligibility or benefit level when it is required by policy, required as a local office option, or information regarding an eligibility factor is unclear, inconsistent, incomplete, or contradictory. The Department uses documents, collateral contacts, or home calls to verify information. A collateral contact is a direct contact with a person, organization, or agency to verify information from the client. When documentation is not available, or clarification is needed, collateral contact may be necessary. Department of Human Services Bridges Assistance Manual (BAM) 130 (April 1, 2017), pp 1-10.

On [REDACTED], 2019, the Department received Petitioner's application for FAP and MA benefits. On December 12, 2019, the Department requested verification of Petitioner's pension income by December 12, 2019. On December 17, 2019, the Department received verification of one of Petitioner's pension payments, but it was not disputed during the hearing that Petitioner receives income from two pensions. The Department then notified Petitioner that she was not eligible for FAP and MA benefits.

Petitioner's representative testified that she provided bank statements to the Department that show pension income being deposited.

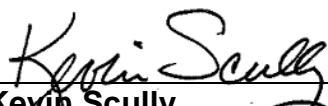
However, these records of deposits into Petitioner's bank accounts are not sufficient verification of Petitioner's gross pension income but only her net income.

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 Medical Assistance (MA) and Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits for failure to provide the Department with information necessary to determine her eligibility to receive benefits.

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

Oakland County (District 3) via electronic mail

BSC4 via electronic mail

D. Smith via electronic mail

EQADHS via electronic mail

M. Holden via electronic mail

D. Sweeney via electronic mail

Petitioner

[REDACTED], MI [REDACTED]

Authorized Hearing Rep.

[REDACTED], MI [REDACTED]