GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

# STATE OF MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS MICHIGAN OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS AND RULES

ORLENE HAWKS DIRECTOR



Date Mailed: January 22, 2021 MOAHR Docket No.: 20-007532

Agency No.: Petitioner:

## **ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:** Janice Spodarek

## **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, an administrative hearing was held on January 20, 2021.

Petitioner appeared unrepresented.

The Department of Health and Human Services (Department) was represented by Jennifer Griswald, ES Worker, and Tiama McGlothin, APS.

Department Exhibit A.16 was admitted into the record.

#### <u>ISSUE</u>

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

### **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 2020, Petitioner applied for SER assistance.
- 2. On November 18, 2020, the Department issued notice to Petitioner that her application was denied due to excess income.
- 3. Petitioner's income exceeded the income cap eligibility for SER.
- 4. On November 24, 2020 Petitioner filed a hearing request.

## **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.

Applicable policy to the case herein is found primarily in ERM 208 where the income limits are set based on the SER Group Size and the Family size.

Here, unrefuted evidence of record indicates that Petitioner's monthly income of bi-weekly exceeds the monthly cap of \$2,715.00 for SER eligibility pursuant to state law and policy. While there was some dispute at the administrative hearing as to further unemployment income of Petitioner's daughter, and possibly other income, such need not be resolved for the purpose of establishing SER eligibility here, as the unrefuted salary income of Petitioner exceeds the SER income cap. As such, the Department's denial would be correct based on the unrefuted evidence of record and thus, must be upheld.

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 Petitioner's SER application.

## **DECISION AND ORDER**

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

JS/ml

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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	Kimberly Kornoelje Kent County DHHS – via electronic mail
	BSC3 – via electronic mail
	T. Bair – via electronic mail
	E. Holzhausen – via electronic mail
Petitioner	– via first class mail
	, MI