



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

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

ORLENE HAWKS
DIRECTOR

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██████████, MI ██████████

Date Mailed: September 3, 2021
MOAHR Docket No.: 21-003664
Agency No.: ██████████
Petitioner: ██████████

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Ellen McLemore

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 September 2, 2021, from Detroit, Michigan. Petitioner was present with his son/Bengali interpreter, ██████████. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department) was represented by Michelle Collins, Eligibility Specialist.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly deny Petitioner's Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefit 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 ██████████, 2021, Petitioner submitted an application for FAP benefits.
2. On July 28, 2021, the Department sent Petitioner a Notice of Case Action informing him that his FAP application was denied.
3. On ██████████, 2021, Petitioner submitted a request for hearing disputing the Department's actions.

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.

In this case, Petitioner submitted an application for FAP benefits on [REDACTED] 2021. The Department determined that Petitioner exceeded the income limits for his group size based on his income from employment. On July 28, 2021, the Department sent Petitioner a Notice of Case Action informing him that his FAP application was denied.

A non-categorically eligible, non-SDV FAP group must have income below the gross and net income limits. BEM 550 (January 2017), p. 1. Gross income limitations are based on group size and are set forth in RFT 250. All countable earned and unearned income available to the client must be considered in determining a client's eligibility for program benefits and group composition policies specify whose income is countable. BEM 500 (January 2016), p. 1-5.

The Department testified that Petitioner's application was denied in error. The Department stated that Petitioner indicated in his application that he was no longer working due to a car accident. The Department also testified that Petitioner submitted a verification of loss of employment on July 22, 2020. Therefore, the Department failed to properly determine Petitioner's household income. As it follows, the Department did not properly follow policy when it denied Petitioner's FAP application.

DECISION AND ORDER

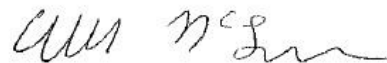
The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and for the reasons stated on the record, if any, finds that the Department did not act in accordance with Department policy when it denied Petitioner's FAP application.

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. Reinstatement and reprocess Petitioner's [REDACTED], 2021 FAP application;
2. If Petitioner is eligible for FAP benefits, issue supplements he is entitled to receive; and
3. Notify Petitioner of its decision in writing.

EM/tm



Ellen McLemore

Administrative Law Judge

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

Via Email:

MDHHS-Wayne-55-Hearings
M. Holden
D. Sweeney
BSC4
MOAHR

Petitioner – Via First-Class Mail:

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