



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

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

ORLENE HAWKS
DIRECTOR



Date Mailed: November 16, 2022
MOAHR Docket No.: 22-004749
Agency No.: [REDACTED]
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Carmen G. Fahie

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 November 9, 2022. The Petitioner represented herself. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department) was represented by Dawn McKay, Recoupment Specialist.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly determine that the Petitioner received an overissuance of Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits that the Department is entitled to recoup?

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the competent, material, and substantial evidence on the whole record, finds as material fact:

1. The Petitioner was a recipient of FAP benefits. Department Exhibit 1, pgs. 64-70.
2. On May 9, 2022, the Petitioner reported changes to her Department Caseworker that her husband and son had earned income from employment. Department Exhibit 1, pgs. 26-28.
3. The Department failed to budget the earned income from employment for the Petitioner's son and the Petitioner's husband unemployment and employment income, resulting in Agency error. Department Exhibit 1, pgs. 29-40.
4. The Department determined that the Petitioner received a FAP overissuance in the amount of \$2,976 during the time period of June 1, 2022, through August 31, 2022, due to Agency error. Department Exhibit 1, pgs. 51-58.

5. The overissuance was due to Department error.
6. On August 30, 2022, the Department sent the Petitioner a notice of the overissuance and a repayment agreement. Department Exhibit 1, pgs. 77-82.
7. On September 7, 2022, the Department received a hearing request from the Petitioner, contesting the Department's negative action.

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, the Petitioner was a recipient of FAP benefits. Department Exhibit 1, pgs. 64-70. On May 9, 2022, the Petitioner reported changes to her Department Caseworker that her husband and son had earned income from employment. Department Exhibit 1, pgs. 26-28. The Department failed to budget the earned income from employment for the Petitioner's son and the Petitioner's husband unemployment and employment income, resulting in Agency error. Department Exhibit 1, pgs. 29-40.

The Department determined that the Petitioner received a FAP overissuance in the amount of \$2,976 during the time period of June 1, 2022, through August 31, 2022, due to Agency error. Department Exhibit 1, pgs. 51-58. The overissuance was due to Department error. On August 30, 2022, the Department sent the Petitioner a notice of the overissuance and a repayment agreement. Department Exhibit 1, pgs. 77-82. On September 7, 2022, the Department received a hearing request from the Petitioner, contesting the Department's negative action. BAM 705. BEM 501.

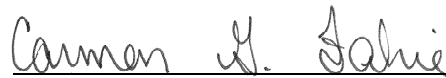
During the hearing, the Recoupment Specialist stated that the Petitioner did report that her husband and son had went back to work and her husband had been receiving unemployment benefits, but that the Department Caseworker failed to act on the information. The Petitioner did spend some of the overissued FAP benefits but did have a FAP EBT balance that can be deducted from the FAP overissuance balance. As a result, the Petitioner received an overissuance of FAP benefits that she wasn't entitled to of \$2,976 that the Department is required to recoup due to Department error for the contested time period of June 1, 2022, through August 31, 2022, minus a FAP EBT balance that can be deducted from the FAP overissuance balance.

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 acted in accordance with Department policy when it determined that the Petitioner received an overissuance of FAP benefits in the amount of \$2,976 for the contested time period of June 1, 2022, through August 31, 2022, that the Department is required to recoup minus a FAP EBT balance that can be deducted from the FAP overissuance balance.

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

CF/CC



Carmen G. Fahie

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-Electronic Mail :

Interested Parties

MDHHS-UPSChearings
MDHHS-Recoupment-Hearings
D. Sweeney
M. Holden
MOAHR

Via-First Class Mail :

Petitioner

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] MI [REDACTED]