



STATE OF MICHIGAN

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
MICHIGAN OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS AND RULES
SUZANNE SONNEBORN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MARLON I. BROWN, DPA
ACTING DIRECTOR

[REDACTED]
MI [REDACTED]

Date Mailed: October 24, 2023
MOAHR Docket No.: 23-005871
Agency No.: [REDACTED]
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Aaron McClintic

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 October 18, 2023, from Lansing, Michigan. The Petitioner was represented by herself. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department) was represented by Lianne Scupholm Hearing Facilitator. Department Exhibit 1, pp. 1-30 was received and admitted.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly determine Petitioner's Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefit amount?

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 July 15, 2023, a LIHEAP Supplemental Benefit for Energy Costs was sent to Petitioner informing her that \$20.01 was added to her card.
2. On September 11, 2023, Petitioner requested a hearing regarding her FAP benefit amount.
3. On September 13, 2023, a Notice of Case Action was sent to Petitioner informing her that FAP benefit amount was increased to \$115 per month.
4. Petitioner receives [REDACTED] in social security.

5. Petitioner has \$725 in housing costs.

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.

Standard Medical Deduction (SMD)

A senior/disabled/disabled veteran (SDV) group that has a verified one-time or ongoing medical expense(s) of more than \$35 for an SDV person(s) will receive the SMD. The SMD is \$165. If the group has actual medical expenses which are more than the SMD, they have the option to verify their actual expenses instead of receiving the SMD. BEM 554.


In this case, Petitioner has [REDACTED] in social security income. After the standard deduction and excess shelter deduction, Petitioner has [REDACTED] in net income. A household of one with [REDACTED] in net income is entitled to \$116 in FAP benefit. This was the amount determined by the Department and it was proper and correct and consistent with Department policy. BEM 556. Petitioner reported some medical expenses but it was not above the \$165 threshold amount and therefore she did not receive medical expense deduction. BEM 554.

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 Petitioner's FAP benefit amount.

DECISION AND ORDER

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

AM/ml



Aaron McClintic
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:

DHHS
Kristina Etheridge
Calhoun County DHHS
190 East Michigan
Battle Creek, MI 49016
MDHHS-Calhoun-Hearings@michigan.gov

Interested Parties
BSC3
M Holden
D Sweeney
MOAHR

Via First Class Mail:

Petitioner
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] MI [REDACTED]