



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

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

MARLON I. BROWN, DPA
DIRECTOR

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Date Mailed: April 18, 2024
MOAHR Docket No.: 24-002094
Agency No.: ██████████
Petitioner: ██████ ██████

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 April 11, 2024, from Lansing, Michigan. Petitioner represented herself. The Department was represented by Hannah Czechowski.

ISSUE

Did the Department of Health and Human Services (Department) properly determine Petitioner’s eligibility for Medical Assistance (MA)?

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 December █████ 2023, the Department notified Petitioner that she was eligible for Medical Assistance (MA) under the Freedom To Work category. Exhibit A, p 14.
2. Petitioner receives monthly Retirement, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (RSDI) in the gross monthly amount of \$██████████
3. On January █████ 2024, the Department notified Petitioner that she is eligible for ongoing Medical Assistance (MA) with a \$██████ monthly deductible effective February 1, 2024. Exhibit A, p 29.
4. On January █████ 2024, the Department received Petitioner’s Renew Benefits form. Exhibit A, p 6.
5. Petitioner reported to the Department that she is not employed. Exhibit A, p 7.

6. On February 26, 2024, the Department received Petitioner's request for a hearing protesting the level of Medical Assistance (MA) that she is receiving. Exhibit A, pp 3-4.

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 through 42 USC 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 through 42 CFR 420.25. The Department administers the MA program pursuant to 42 CFR 435, MCL 400.10, and MCL 400.103 through MCL 400.112k of the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1 *et seq.*

Persons may qualify under more than one MA category. Federal law gives them the right to the most beneficial category. The most beneficial category is the one that results in eligibility or the least amount of excess income. Department of Health and Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) 105 (January 1, 2024), p 2.

Freedom To Work (FTW) is a category of MA that is available to individuals with disabilities age 16 through 64 who have earned income. Department of Health and Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) 174 (January 1, 2020), p 1.

Petitioner was an ongoing recipient of MA under the FTW category when the Department initiated a routine review of her eligibility for ongoing benefits. Petitioner is not employed, and no evidence was presented on the record that she has been employed for more than 24 months or that she is temporarily unemployed. Therefore, Petitioner is no longer eligible for the FTW medical benefits.

The AD-CARE program is a category of Medical Assistance (MA) that provides health care coverage to individuals who are aged or disabled and have an income that does not exceed the federal poverty level. Department of Health and Human Services Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) 163 (July 1, 2017), p 1.

Petitioner is disabled but her gross monthly income is 111% of the federal poverty level. Therefore, Petitioner is not eligible for MA benefits under the AD-CARE category.

A review of Petitioner's case reveals that the Department budgeted correct amount of income received by the Petitioner. Petitioner's "protected income level" is \$408, and this amount cannot be changed either by the Department or by this Administrative Law Judge. Department of Human Services Reference Table Manual (RFT) 240 (December 1, 2013),


p 1. Department's determination that the Petitioner has a \$918 deductible per month she must meet in order to qualify for MA for any medical expenses above is therefore correct.

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 the most beneficial category of Medical Assistance (MA) that Petitioner is eligible for based on her current circumstances.

DECISION AND ORDER

Accordingly, the Department's decision is AFFIRMED.

KS/dm



Kevin Scully
Administrative Law Judge
Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings
and Rules (MOAHR)

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
Susan Derseweh
Genesee County DHHS Clio Rd Dist.
**MDHHS-Genesee-Clio-
Hearings@michigan.gov**

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Via-First Class Mail :

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