



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

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

MARLON I. BROWN, DPA  
DIRECTOR

[REDACTED], MI [REDACTED]

Date Mailed: June 14, 2024  
MOAHR Docket No.: 24-005383  
Agency No.: [REDACTED]  
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Danielle R. Harkness**

**HEARING DECISION**

On May 14, 2024, Petitioner, [REDACTED], requested a hearing to dispute a Food Assistance Program (FAP) application denial. Following Petitioner's hearing request, this matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9, 7 CFR 273.15, and Mich Admin Code, R 792.11002. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on June 13, 2024. Petitioner appeared and represented himself. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department) was represented by Lacey Whitford, Family Independence Manager.

A 29-page packet of documents provided by the Department was admitted collectively as the Department's Exhibit A.

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly determine Petitioner's application for FAP benefits?

**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 [REDACTED] 2024, Petitioner applied for FAP benefits. Exhibit (Ex.) A, pp. 10-16.
2. Petitioner is a full-time medical student at [REDACTED]. *Id.* p. 3.
3. The Department reviewed Petitioner's application for FAP benefits and determined that Petitioner is not an eligible student for FAP benefits because Petitioner is a full-time student and did not meet any of the additional criteria to be considered an eligible student.
4. On April 26, 2024, a notice of case action was sent to Petitioner notifying Petitioner that Petitioner's application for FAP benefits was denied because Petitioner was an ineligible student. *Id.* pp. 6-9.

5. On February 1, 2024, Petitioner requested a hearing to dispute the denial. *Id.* pp. 3-5.

### **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) 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 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 is disputing the [REDACTED] 2024, FAP application denial due to ineligible student status.

A full-time student is ineligible for FAP benefits unless the student meets one of the following criteria: receiving Family Independence Program (FIP) assistance; enrolled as a result of a Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) program; enrolled as a result of a program under Section 236 of the Trade Readjustment Act of 1974; enrolled in a FAE&T or FAE&T plus and either part of a career and technical education program as defined under the Perkins Strengthening Career and Technical Education Act and a course of study that will lead to employment or the student is limited to remedial courses, basic adult education, literacy, or English as a second language; participating in an employment and training program for low-income households operated by state and local government where one or more components of such program is at least equivalent to an acceptable FAP employment and training program component such as a program under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006; participating in another state or local government employment and training program; physically or mentally unfit for employment; employed for at least an average of 20 hours per week and paid for such employment; self-employed for at least an average of 20 hours per week and earning an average weekly income at least equivalent to the federal minimum wage multiplied by 20; participating in an on-the-job training program; participating in a state or federally funded work study program; providing more than half of the physical care of a group member under the age of six, or providing more than half of the physical care of a group member age six through eleven if the local office has determined that adequate child care is unavailable to enable the student to participate in work or work study. BEM 245 (July 1, 2023), pp. 4-6.

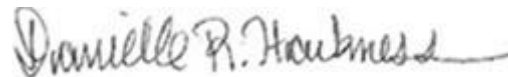
At the time of Petitioner's [REDACTED] 2024, application, Petitioner did not meet any of the criteria above to be considered an eligible student for FAP purposes. No evidence was submitted by Petitioner to prove that the Department improperly determined that Petitioner is not an eligible student for FAP purposes at the time Petitioner submitted Petitioner's April 25, 2024, application.

At the hearing, Petitioner indicated that he meets the work requirement to be considered an eligible student. Petitioner is encouraged to re-apply for FAP benefits and provide the Department with documentation that he meets the work requirement.

**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 its policies and the applicable law when it denied Petitioner's [REDACTED] 2024, application for FAP benefits.

IT IS ORDERED, the Department's decision is **AFFIRMED**.



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**Danielle R. Harkness**  
Administrative Law Judge

DH/pt

**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**

Lacey Whitford  
Isabella County DHHS  
1919 Parkland Drive  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

**MDHHS-Isabella-Hearings@michigan.gov**

**Interested Parties**

BSC2  
M Holden  
B Cabanaw  
N Denson-Sogbaka  
MOAHR

**Via-First Class Mail:**

**Petitioner**

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