



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

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

ORLENE HAWKS
DIRECTOR

████████████████████
████████████████████
██████████ MI ██████████

Date Mailed: March 17, 2022
MOAHR Docket No.: 22-000221
Agency No.: ██████████
Petitioner: ██████████

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Jeffrey Kemm

HEARING DECISION

On January 18, 2022, Petitioner, ██████████, requested a hearing to dispute the Department's decision to deny her request for Medical Assistance (MA). As a result, a hearing was scheduled to be held on March 10, 2022, pursuant to MCL 400.9; 42 CFR 431.200 to 431.250; and Mich Admin Code, R 792.11002. Petitioner appeared and represented herself. Respondent, Department of Health and Human Services (Department), had Kristina Tripp, Hearing Facilitator, appear as its representative. Neither party had any additional witnesses.

One exhibit was admitted into evidence during the hearing. A 40-page packet of documents provided by the Department was admitted collectively as the Department's Exhibit A.

ISSUE

Whether the Department properly denied Petitioner's request for 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 ██████████ 2021, Petitioner applied for health insurance through the Affordable Care Act marketplace. Petitioner reported in her application that her income was \$██████████ per month from Jackson Community College.
2. Petitioner's application was forwarded to the Department for MA.
3. On November 16, 2021, the Department mailed a verification checklist to Petitioner to obtain information from Petitioner to determine her eligibility for MA. The verification checklist instructed Petitioner to provide the Department with proof of her income for the last 30 days by November 29, 2021.

4. Petitioner received the verification checklist.
5. Petitioner responded to the verification checklist by preparing a letter and including a statement of her year-to-date income. Petitioner mailed the documents to the Department.
6. On December 13, 2021, the Department received Petitioner's documents.
7. The Department reviewed Petitioner's documents and determined that they were insufficient to establish Petitioner's income for the 30 days prior to her application for MA.
8. On January 5, 2022, the Department mailed a health care coverage determination notice to Petitioner to notify her that her request for MA was denied because she failed to provide acceptable verification of her income.
9. On January 18, 2022, Petitioner requested a hearing to dispute the Department's decision. Petitioner included an updated statement of her income that included a breakdown of her past paychecks for 2021. Petitioner also included her federal income tax return for 2021.

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 1396-1396w-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-.25. The Department administers the MA program pursuant to 42 CFR 435, MCL 400.10, and MCL 400.105-.112k.

When the Department receives an application for assistance, the Department must determine whether the client is eligible. To determine whether a client is eligible for assistance, the Department must request verification of the information that is required to determine eligibility.

Verification is usually required by the Department at the time of application. BAM 130 (January 1, 2021), p. 1. The Department must tell a client what verification is required, how to obtain it, and the due date. *Id.* at 3. The Department must allow the client 10 calendar days to provide requested verification. *Id.* at 8. The client must obtain the verification, but the local office must assist if the client needs it and asks for help. *Id.*

Verifications are only considered timely if they are received by the due date. *Id.* The Department must send a Negative Action Notice when the due date lapses or the client has refused to provide the verification. *Id.*

The Department sent Petitioner a verification checklist which instructed Petitioner what verification was required, how to obtain it, and the due date. It was Petitioner's responsibility to obtain the requested verification and to make sure the Department received it by the due date. Based on the evidence presented, the Department did not receive the requested verification by the due date, and the verification that Department received was inadequate. Thus, I must find that Petitioner failed to provide the requested verification by the due date. Therefore, the Department properly denied Petitioner's application for MA.

Petitioner may reapply for MA. When the Department receives an application for MA, the Department determines eligibility on a calendar month basis. The current income limit for full-coverage MA through the Healthy Michigan Plan is \$1,506.23 per month for a household size of one (133% of the Federal Poverty Level). The income limit for MA through the Healthy Michigan Plan is based on modified adjusted gross income (MAGI). There are other programs that Petitioner may be eligible for if Petitioner is not eligible for MA through the Healthy Michigan Plan.

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 properly denied Petitioner's request for Medical Assistance.

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

JK/mp



Jeffrey Kemm
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

Email Recipients:

MDHHS-Jackson-Hearings
EQADhearings
C. George
MOAHR
BSC4

First-Class Mail Recipient:

██████████
██████████
██████ MI ██████