



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

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

MARLON I. BROWN, DPA
ACTING DIRECTOR



Date Mailed: October 10, 2023
MOAHR Docket No.: 23-004896
Agency No.: [REDACTED]
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Danielle Nuccio

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 September 25, 2023. Petitioner appeared and represented himself. The Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) was represented by Melissa Stanley, Hearings Facilitator.

ISSUE

Did MDHHS properly close Petitioner's Medical Assistance/Medicaid (MA) case?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. Under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), PL 116-127, Michigan received additional federal MA funding during the COVID-19 pandemic health emergency (PHE).
2. As a condition for receiving the increased funding, § 6008 of the FFCRA required that MDHHS provide continuous MA coverage for individuals who were enrolled in MA on or after March 18, 2020, even if those individuals became ineligible for MA for reasons other than death, residing outside of Michigan, or requesting that MA be discontinued.
3. The MA continuous coverage requirement under § 6008 of the FFCRA was not indefinite.
4. The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (CAA, 2023), PL 117-328, terminates the continuous coverage requirement effective March 31, 2023.

5. Beginning April 1, 2023, the CAA, 2023 required MDHHS to reevaluate almost all MA recipients' eligibility for ongoing MA.
6. Petitioner is an ongoing MA recipient.
7. Petitioner does not receive Medicare.
8. On June 26, 2023, MDHHS received Petitioner's timely submitted redetermination of MA benefits. Petitioner reported living with his adult son (age [REDACTED]). Petitioner reported that he is employed at [REDACTED] (Employer 1) and [REDACTED] (Employer 2) (Exhibit A, pp. 6-12). Petitioner submitted paystubs with his redetermination (Exhibit A, pp. 13-22).
9. On August 2, 2023, MDHHS issued a Healthcare Coverage Determination Notice to Petitioner, informing him that he was no longer eligible for MA coverage due to excess income, effective September 1, 2023 (Exhibit A, pp. 25-33).
10. On August 8, 2023, MDHHS received Petitioner's timely submitted hearing request disputing the calculation of his income in determining that he is not eligible for MA (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 1396-1396w-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 (formerly known as the Department of Human Services) administers the MA program pursuant to 42 CFR 435, MCL 400.10, and MCL 400.105-.112k.

Starting April 1, 2023, ongoing MA eligibility must be renewed. For MA beneficiaries whose MA eligibility is based on their Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI)-based income, MA must be renewed once every 12 months and no more frequently than once every 12 months. 42 CFR 435.916(a)(1). For MA beneficiaries whose MA eligibility is not based on their MAGI-based income, MA eligibility must be redetermined at least every 12 months. 42 CFR 435.916(b). Any renewal form or notice must be accessible to persons who are limited English proficient and persons with disabilities. 42 CFR 435.916(f)(2).

In conducting this renewal or redetermination, MDHHS must check available information and data sources to attempt to redetermine eligibility before contacting the beneficiaries. 42 CFR 435.916(a)(2) and (b), 435.948, and 435.949. Before concluding that an individual is ineligible for MA, MDHHS must evaluate the individual's eligibility for MA on all bases for MA coverage, including the Medicare Savings Programs. 42 CFR 435.916(f)(1).

Upon reviewing Petitioner's eligibility criteria at redetermination, MDHHS concluded that Petitioner was no longer eligible for MA coverage, due to excess income. Petitioner disputes the closure of his MA case.

MA is available (i) under SSI-related categories to individuals who are aged (65 or older), blind or disabled, (ii) to individuals who are under age 19, parents or caretakers of children, or pregnant or recently pregnant women, and (iii) to individuals who meet the eligibility criteria for Healthy Michigan Plan (HMP) coverage. 42 CFR 435.911; 42 CFR 435.100 to 435.172; BEM 105 (January 2021), p. 1; BEM 137 (June 2020), p. 1. Under federal law, an individual eligible under more than one MA category must have eligibility determined for the category selected and is entitled to the most beneficial coverage available, which is the one that results in eligibility and the least amount of excess income or the lowest cost share. BEM 105, p. 2; 42 CFR 435.404.

Upon review, Petitioner is unable to receive MA under an SSI-related category because he is not aged (■■■ or older), blind, disabled, or entitled to Medicare or formerly blind or disabled. Therefore, MDHHS properly reviewed Petitioner's eligibility based on Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) methodology for MA coverage under the MAGI categories: children under 19, parents or caretakers of children, pregnant or recently pregnant women, former foster children, MOMS, MICHild, Flint Water Group and Healthy Michigan Plan.

Group composition for MAGI-related categories follows tax filer and tax dependent rules. The household for a tax filer, who is not claimed as a tax dependent, consists of: the individual, the individual's spouse, and tax dependents. BEM 211 (July 2019) pp. 1-2. Petitioner's son, while living in Petitioner's household, was not included in his group size due to being an adult and not filed on Petitioner's taxes as a dependent. Therefore, MDHHS properly determined Petitioner to be a group size of one.

The Healthy Michigan Plan (HMP) is based on Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) methodology. HMP provides health care coverage for individuals who:

- Are 19-64 years of age.
- Do not qualify for or are not enrolled in Medicare.
- Do not qualify for or are not enrolled in other Medicaid programs.
- Are not pregnant at the time of application.

- Meet Michigan residency requirements.
- Meet Medicaid citizenship requirements.
- **Have income at or below 133 percent Federal Poverty Level (FPL).**

BEM 137, p. 1 (Emphasis Added).

Petitioner does not assert that he meets any non-financial eligibility criteria to qualify for coverage under HMP. MDHHS determined that Petitioner no longer qualified for HMP since his countable income exceeds the income limit. MDHHS determined that Petitioner's monthly income amount was \$[REDACTED] for a group size of one (see Exhibit A, pp. 23-24). MDHHS testified that this determination was based upon reported income from Petitioner in his redetermination form in which he reported current employment with both Employer 1 and Employer 2 (see Exhibit A, pp. 8; 13-22). Petitioner testified that he no longer works for Employer 1 and disputes the inclusion of this income in his eligibility determination. Petitioner testified that his employment with Employer 1 ended in April 2023, but acknowledged that he did not update MDHHS as to this change in income. Given that Petitioner submitted paystubs from Employer 1, and included Employer 1 information on his redetermination form, and since MDHHS did not discover that Petitioner no longer worked for Employer 1 until receiving the request for hearing, they acted in accordance with policy in calculating income from Employer 1 in determining Petitioner's MA eligibility. Upon review, MDHHS properly calculated Petitioner's monthly income to be \$[REDACTED]. Petitioner was advised that he may reapply at any time given his change in income after the redetermination was processed.

The 2023 FPL (federal poverty level) for a group size of one is \$14,580.00 annually or \$1,215.00 monthly. 133% of the FPL for a household size of one is \$19,391.00 annually or \$1,616.00 monthly.¹ As discussed, Petitioner's monthly income is \$3,539.00. Since Petitioner's monthly gross income exceeds 133% of the FPL, Petitioner no longer qualifies to receive MA under the HMP. Therefore, MDHHS acted in accordance with policy in closing Petitioner's MA coverage.

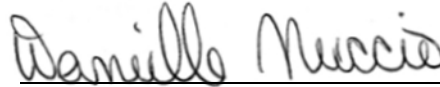
The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and for the reasons stated on the record, if any, finds that the Department acted in accordance with Department policy when it closed Petitioner's MA case.

¹ <https://aspe.hhs.gov/topics/poverty-economic-mobility/poverty-guidelines/prior-hhs-poverty-guidelines-federal-register-references>; [Federal Poverty Guidelines / Levels for 2023 & Their Relevance to Medicaid Eligibility \(medicaidplanningassistance.org\)](https://www.medicaidplanningassistance.org/).

DECISION AND ORDER

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

DN/mp



Danielle Nuccio

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-Saginaw-Hearings
EQAD Hearings
M. Schaefer
MOAHR
BSC2

Via-First Class Mail :

