



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

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Date Mailed: December 1, 2023  
MOAHR Docket No.: 23-006761  
Agency No.: [REDACTED]  
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Colleen Lack**

**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 November 21, 2023, from Lansing, Michigan. [REDACTED], the Petitioner, appeared on her own behalf. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department) was represented by Jarod Swartz, Supervisor, and Janice Parente, Eligibility Specialist.

During the hearing proceeding, the Department's Hearing Summary packet was admitted as Exhibit A, pp. 1-22

**ISSUE**

Did the Department properly determine Petitioner's eligibility for the Food Assistance Program (FAP)?

**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 September [REDACTED] 2023, the Department certified Petitioner's eligibility for FAP from May 1, 2023 through October 1, 2023. (Exhibit A, p. 16)
2. On October [REDACTED] 2023, Petitioner filed a hearing request, raising multiple issues including problems with her FAP case since May 2023. (Exhibit A, pp. 4-6)

## 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.

Regulations governing the hearing and appeal process for applicants and recipients of public assistance in Michigan are found in Mich Admin Code, R 792.10101 to R 792.10137 and R 792.11001 to R 792.11020. Rule 792.11002(1) provides as follows:

An opportunity for a hearing shall be granted to an applicant who requests a hearing because his or her claim for assistance is denied or is not acted upon with reasonable promptness, has received notice of a suspension or reduction in benefits, or exclusion from a service program, or has experienced a failure of the agency to take into account the recipient's choice of service.

A client's request for hearing must be in writing and signed by an adult member of the eligible group, adult child, or authorized hearing representative (AHR). Department of Health and Human Services Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM) 600 (March 1, 2021), p. 2. Moreover, BAM 600, p. 6 provides that a request for hearing must be received in the Department local office within 90 days of the date of the written notice of case action.

On October █ 2023, Petitioner filed a hearing request, raising multiple issues including problems with her FAP case since May 2023. (Exhibit A, pp. 4-6). On September █ 2023, the Department certified Petitioner's eligibility for FAP from May 1, 2023 through October 1, 2023. (Exhibit A, p. 16). The September █ 2023 determination was made within the 90 days before Petitioner's October 10, 2023 hearing request. Further, there was no written notice of case action for this determination included in the Department's exhibits.

However, the Department's Hearing Summary packet did not address the September █ 2023 action. Rather, the Department's hearing summary addressed the competed Renew Benefits received on September 2023, which was still being processed at the time the hearing summary packet was prepared. (Exhibit A, pp. 1-2)

Accordingly, the Department did not to submit the documentation needed to proceed with an administrative hearing to be able to review the September 5, 2023 action that occurred within the 90 days prior to Petitioner's October 10, 2023 hearing request. Therefore, the Department's determinations must be reversed.

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 failed to satisfy its burden of showing that it acted in accordance with Department policy when it determined Petitioner's eligibility for FAP.

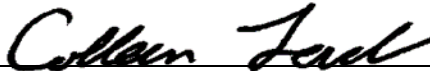
### **DECISION AND ORDER**

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

THE DEPARTMENT IS ORDERED TO BEGIN DOING THE FOLLOWING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH DEPARTMENT POLICY AND CONSISTENT WITH THIS HEARING DECISION, WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE DATE OF MAILING OF THIS DECISION AND ORDER:

1. Redetermine Petitioner's eligibility for FAP as of May 1, 2023 in accordance with Department policy.

CL/dm

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Colleen Lack  
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**  
Kimberly Kornoelje  
Kent County DHHS  
**MDHHS-Kent-**  
**Hearings@michigan.gov**

**HoldenM**

**DensonSogbakaN**

**BSC3HearingDecisions**

**MOAHR**

**Via-First Class Mail :**

**Petitioner**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]