



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]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] MI [REDACTED]

Date Mailed: January 15, 2025  
MOAHR Docket No.: 24-012292  
Agency No.: [REDACTED]  
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

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

### **HEARING DECISION**

On October 28, 2024, Petitioner, [REDACTED] requested a hearing to dispute a Food Assistance Program (FAP) 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 January 14, 2025. Petitioner appeared and represented himself. Respondent, Department of Health and Human Services (Department), had Danielle Moton, Assistance Payment Worker, appear as its representative.

A 20-page packet of documents provided by the Department was admitted collectively as the Department's Exhibit A.

### **ISSUE**

Did the Department properly deny 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 and reported that he was self-employed.
2. Following Petitioner's [REDACTED] 2024, application, an interview was held and Petitioner also reported that Petitioner was self-employed.
3. On September 20, 2024, the Department mailed to Petitioner a verification checklist. The form instructed Petitioner to verify Petitioner's self-employment by submitting recent bank statements, receipts, and/or tax returns by September 30, 2024.

4. On September 20, 2024, the Department mailed to Petitioner a self-employment income and expense statement and Petitioner was asked to provide income and expenses for June 2024 by submitting business receipts or proof of income.
5. Petitioner timely submitted proofs to verify his self-employment for [REDACTED] 2024.
6. On October 4, 2024, the Department mailed a notice of case action to Petitioner to notify Petitioner that Petitioner's application for FAP benefits was denied because verification of Petitioner's self-employment was not returned as instructed.
7. On October 28, 2024, Petitioner requested a hearing to dispute the Department's decision.

### **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 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 Department's decision to deny Petitioner's application for FAP benefits. The Department denied Petitioner's application for FAP benefits because Petitioner did not return the requested verifications as instructed by the Department.

Verification is usually required by the Department at the time of application/redetermination or for a reported change affecting eligibility or benefit level. BAM 130 (January 1, 2023), p. 1. The Department must tell a client what verification is required, how to obtain it, and the due date. *Id.* at p. 3. The Department must allow the client 10 calendar days to provide requested verification. *Id.* at p. 7. 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 client refuses to provide the verification, or the client has failed to provide the verification by the due date. *Id.*

The Department requested verification from Petitioner because the Department needed additional information to determine Petitioner's eligibility for FAP benefits after Petitioner reported that Petitioner was self-employed on his [REDACTED] 2024, FAP application. The Department properly instructed Petitioner what verification was required, how to

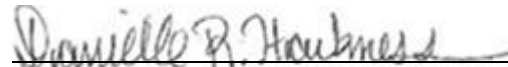
obtain it, and the due date. The Department also properly allowed Petitioner 10 calendar days to provide the verification. It was Petitioner's responsibility to provide the verification to the Department by the due date. When the Department did not receive the verification by the due date, the Department properly denied Petitioner's [REDACTED] 2024, application for FAP benefits because Petitioner failed to provide the verification by the due date.

### **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 did act in accordance with its policies and the applicable law when it denied Petitioner's September 5, 2024, application for FAP benefits.

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

DH/pt



**Danielle R. Harkness**  
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**

Tara Roland 82-17  
Wayne-Greenfield/Joy-DHHS  
8655 Greenfield  
Detroit, MI 48228

**MDHHS-Wayne-17-hearings@michigan.gov**

**Interested Parties**

BSC4

M Holden

B Cabanaw

N Denson-Sogbaka

MOAHR

**Via-First Class Mail:**

**Petitioner**

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