



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

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

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DIRECTOR

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Date Mailed: April 3, 2024  
MOAHR Docket No.: 24-000878  
Agency No.: ██████████  
Petitioner: ██████████

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Amanda M. T. Marler**

### **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 March 14, 2024. The Petitioner appeared for the hearing and was represented by ██████████, a friend. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department) was represented by Avery Smith, Family Independence Manager.

### **ISSUE**

Did the Department properly determine Petitioner's Medical Assistance (MA) Program eligibility?

### **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, terminated 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.
6. On November 8, 2023, the Department received Petitioner's completed Redetermination.
7. On November 15, 2023, the Department began budgeting [REDACTED] twice per month from employment with [REDACTED].
8. Petitioner is not married, does not have any dependents, and receives a Retirement Survivors Disability Insurance (RSDI) benefit of [REDACTED] per month.
9. On January 16, 2024, the Department issued a Health Care Coverage Determination Notice (HCCDN) to Petitioner advising him that he was eligible for full coverage MA benefits effective January 2024 but ineligible for MA benefits effective February 2024 because he was not under 21, pregnant, a caretaker of a minor child, over age 65, blind, or disabled.
10. On January 29, 2024, the Department received Petitioner's request for hearing disputing the closure of his MA benefits.

### **APPLICABLE LAWS**

Authority for the ALJ to conduct the hearing is provided under MCL 400.9 and 400.37; 42 USC 1396(3); 42 CFR 431.200 to 431.250.

MDHHS policies are contained in the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM), and Reference Tables Manual (RFT).

The MA program is established by Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 USC 1396 *et seq*; 42 USC 1315; the Affordable Care Act of 2010, the collective term for the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, PL 111-148, as amended by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, PL 111-152; 42 CFR 430.10 to 42 CFR 430.25; 42 CFR 431.200 to 431.250; and 42 CFR 438.400 to 438.424. MDHHS administers the MA program pursuant to 42 CFR 435, MCL 400.10 and MCL 400.103 to MCL 400.112k of the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1 *et seq*.

## **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

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).

### **MA Coverage**

Upon reviewing Petitioner's eligibility criteria at redetermination, MDHHS concluded that Petitioner was ineligible for MA coverage effective February 1, 2024. Petitioner disputes this decision.

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, (iii) to individuals who meet the eligibility criteria for Healthy Michigan Plan (HMP) coverage, and (iv) to individuals who meet the eligibility criteria for Plan First Medicaid (PF-MA) coverage. 42 CFR 435.911; 42 CFR 435.100 to 435.172; BEM 105 (October 2023), p. 1; BEM 137 (June 2020), p. 1; BEM 124 (July 2023), 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 (January 2021), p. 2; 42 CFR 435.404.

Because Petitioner is not age 65 or older, and no evidence was presented that he is blind or disabled, nor under age 19, pregnant or recently pregnant, Petitioner is potentially eligible for MA coverage under HMP. HMP is a MAGI-related MA category that provides MA coverage to individuals who (i) are 19 to 64 years of age; (ii) have income under the MAGI methodology at or below 133% of the federal poverty level (FPL); (iii) do not qualify for or are not enrolled in Medicare; (iv) do not qualify for or are not enrolled in other MA programs; (v) are not pregnant at the time of application; and (vi) are residents of the State of Michigan. BEM 137, p. 1; 42 CFR 435.603.

In this case, MDHHS concluded that Petitioner was not eligible for HMP due to having income that exceeded the applicable income limit for Petitioner's group size. An individual is eligible for HMP if the household's MAGI-income does not exceed 133% of the FPL

applicable to the individual's group size. An individual's group size for MAGI purposes requires consideration of the client's tax filing status. In this case, Petitioner indicated he is single and does not have any dependents; therefore, Petitioner's group size is one. BEM 211 (October 2023), p. 2. 133% of the annual FPL in 2023 (the most current applicable FPL) for a household with one member is \$20,029.80. See <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/01/19/2023-00885/annual-update-of-the-hhs-poverty-guidelines>. Therefore, to be income eligible for HMP, Petitioner's annual income cannot exceed \$20,029.80 or \$1,669.15 per month.

To determine financial eligibility under HMP, income must be calculated in accordance with MAGI under federal tax law. MAGI is based on Internal Revenue Service rules and relies on federal tax information. BEM 500 (July 2020), pp. 3-4. Income is verified via electronic federal data sources in compliance with MAGI methodology. MREM, § 1. In determining an individual's eligibility for MAGI-related MA, the Department bases financial eligibility on current monthly household income. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, *State Plan Amendment 17-0100 Approval Notice*, (March 19, 2018), p. 7. MAGI is calculated by reviewing the client's adjusted gross income (AGI) and adding it to any tax-exempt foreign income, tax-exempt Social Security benefits, and tax-exempt interest. HealthCare.gov, *Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI)* <<https://www.healthcare.gov/glossary/modified-adjusted-gross-income-magi/>> (accessed July 20, 2023). AGI is found on IRS Tax Form 1040 at line 11. HealthCare.gov, *Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI)* <https://www.healthcare.gov/glossary/adjusted-gross-income-agi/>> (accessed July 20, 2023). Alternatively, it is calculated by taking the "federal taxable wages" for each income earner in the household as shown on the paystub or, if not shown on the paystub, by using gross income before taxes reduced by any money the employer takes out for health coverage, childcare, or retirement savings. HealthCare.gov, *Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI)* <<https://www.healthcare.gov/income-and-household-information/how-to-report/>> (accessed July 20, 2023). In situations where income is difficult to predict because of unemployment, self-employment, commissions, or a work schedule that changes regularly, income should be estimated based upon past experiences, recent trends, possible changes in the workplace, and similar information. *Id.*

Petitioner had gross RSDI income of [REDACTED] per month in addition to twice monthly earned income of [REDACTED] with no deductions for health coverage, childcare, or retirement savings. Therefore, Petitioner had a total MAGI income of [REDACTED]. Petitioner is not eligible for HMP.

Because no evidence was presented that Petitioner is disabled, the SSI-related MA categories are not evaluated here.

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 benefits effective January 1, 2024.

**DECISION AND ORDER**

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

AMTM/cc



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**Amanda M. T. Marler**  
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-Oakland-6303-Hearings  
BSC4-HearingDecisions  
EQADHearings  
M. Schaefer  
MOAHR

**Via-First Class Mail :**

**Petitioner**

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