



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

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

MARLON BROWN
DIRECTOR

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Date Mailed: June 4, 2024
MOAHR Docket No.: 24-004089
Agency No.: ██████████
Petitioner: ██████████

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Aaron McClintic

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 May 29, 2024, from Lansing, Michigan. The Petitioner was represented by himself. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department) was represented by Todd Barrus. Department Exhibit 1, pp. 1-30 was received admitted.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly determine Petitioner's Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefit amount?

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 ██████████ 2024, Petitioner applied for FAP and stated in his application that he was not responsible for utilities.
2. Petitioner was approved for FAP in the amount of \$29 for March and \$23 for April.
3. Petitioner updated information regarding his utilities on April 17, 2024, in a telephone meeting.
4. Petitioner was approved for \$175 in FAP for May 2024 and ongoing.
5. On April 18, 2024, Petitioner requested a hearing disputing his FAP benefit amounts for March and April 2024.

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.

FAP Only

Act on a change reported by means other than a tape match within 10 days of becoming aware of the change. Benefit Increases: Changes which result in an increase in the household's benefits must be effective no later than the first allotment issued 10 days after the date the change was reported, provided any necessary verification was returned by the due date. A supplemental issuance may be necessary in some cases. If necessary verification is not returned by the due date, take appropriate action based on what type of verification was requested. If verification is returned late, the increase must affect the month after verification is returned. BAM 220

In this case, Petitioner stated in his application for FAP that he was not responsible for utilities. At his initial interview, Petitioner again stated that he was not responsible for utilities. At a telephone conference on April 17, 2024, Petitioner disclosed that he is responsible for one half the utilities. That information was updated and Petitioner's FAP benefit increased to \$175 per month effective May 1, 2024. The Department processed the change Petitioner reported with regard to his utilities in a timely manner and increased his benefit for the next issuance pursuant to Department policy. BAM 220

Petitioner testified that he reported that he was responsible for utilities at his initial interview, but the Interview Guide Details provided by the Department do not reflect that. (Exhibit 1, pp. 5-11)

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 determined his FAP benefit amounts for March and April 2024.

DECISION AND ORDER

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

AM/cc



Aaron McClintic

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-Hillsdale-Hearings
BSC4-HearingDecisions
N. Denson-Sogbaka
B. Cabanaw
M. Holden
MOAHR

Via-First Class Mail :

Petitioner

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