



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

██████████  
████████████████████  
██████████ MI ██████████

Date Mailed: September 13, 2024  
MOAHR Docket No.: 24-008973  
Agency No.: ██████████  
Petitioner: ██████████

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

**HEARING DECISION**

On July 31, 2024, Petitioner, ██████████, requested a hearing. As a result, a hearing was scheduled to be held on September 12, 2024, pursuant to MCL 400.9, 7 CFR 273.15, and Mich Admin Code, R 792.11002. Petitioner appeared at the hearing and represented herself. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department) was represented by Hannah Czechowski, Hearings Coordinator.

A 24-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 request for State Emergency Relief (SER) for moving expenses and a security deposit?

**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 SER for moving expenses and a security deposit.
2. Petitioner receives \$ ██████████ in RSDI and \$ ██████████ in child support.
3. On July 29, 2024, the Department sent a Decision Notice to Petitioner denying Petitioner's application for SER for moving expenses and a security deposit due to Petitioner's shortfall amount exceeding Petitioner's need amount.
4. On July 31, 2024, Petitioner requested a hearing to dispute the Department's denial.
5. Petitioner's ██████████ 2024, SER application was reprocessed.

6. On August 6, 2024, the Department sent a Decision Notice to Petitioner denying Petitioner's application for SER for moving expenses and a security deposit due to Petitioner's income copayment exceeding Petitioner's need amount.

### **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 SER program is established by the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1-.119b. The SER program is administered by the Department pursuant to MCL 400.10 and Mich Admin Code, R 400.7001-.7049.

If the copayment, shortfall, contribution or combination exceeds the need, the application shall be denied unless good cause is granted. ERM 103 (October 1, 2023), p.5.

In this case, Petitioner's copayment is \$1,017.20 (\$1,410.00 + \$52.20 - \$445.00). The amount Petitioner requested for SER for moving expenses and a security deposit is \$ [REDACTED] (\$ [REDACTED] + \$ [REDACTED]). Therefore, Petitioner's copayment exceeds the need.

At the hearing, Petitioner indicated that Petitioner has a court-ordered child support payment of \$ [REDACTED] per month. However, this obligation was not reported on Petitioner's [REDACTED] 2024, application. If Petitioner would like the Department to consider this obligation, Petitioner is encouraged to submit another SER application with this obligation listed.

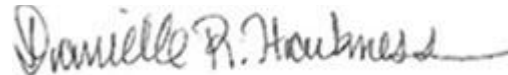
Petitioner also disagreed with the unearned income of \$ [REDACTED] that the Department used in determining Petitioner's copayment. The department representative indicated that Petitioner received child support of \$ [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] 2024, \$ [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] 2024, and \$ [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] 2024. After averaging the payments received in each of those months the Department determined that Petitioner received unearned income of \$ [REDACTED] Petitioner did not present any evidence to show that the amounts used by the Department were incorrect.

Here, the Department properly denied Petitioner's request for SER for moving expenses and a security deposit.

**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 acted in accordance with its policies and the applicable law when it denied Petitioner's request for SER for moving expenses and a security deposit.

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



---

**Danielle R. Harkness**  
Administrative Law Judge

DH/pt

**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**

Hannah Czechowski  
Genesee County DHHS Clio Rd Dist.  
4809 Clio Road  
Flint, MI 48504

**MDHHS-Genesee-Clio-Hearings@michigan.gov**

**Interested Parties**

BSC2  
J. McLaughlin  
E. Holzhausen  
MOAHR

**Via-First Class Mail:**

**Petitioner**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] MI [REDACTED]