GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

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

MARLON BROWN DIRECTOR



Date Mailed: November 12, 2024 MOAHR Docket No.: 24-010546

Agency No.: Petitioner:

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 October 15, 2024, from Lansing, Michigan. The Petitioner, appeared on her own behalf. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department) was represented by Shanna Ward, Assistance Payments Lead Worker (APLW).

During the hearing proceeding, the Department's Hearing Summary packet was admitted as Exhibit A, pp. 1-13.

Petitioner's hearing request indicated three programs were at issue, State SSI Payments (SSP), Medical Assistance (MA), and Family Independence Program (FIP). However, the issue regarding MA has been resolved and Petitioner never applied for FIP. Accordingly, during the hearing proceeding, Petitioner withdrew the MA and FIP portions of the hearing request. Therefore, the MA and FIP portions of Petitioner's hearing requests are **DISMISSED.**

ISSUE

Did the Department properly determine Petitioner's eligibility for the State SSI Payments (SSP) program?

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the competent, material, and substantial evidence on the whole record, finds as material fact:

- 1. Petitioner was receiving SSP benefits based on receiving Social Security Administration (SSA) issued Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits.
- 2. On August 2024, a Notice of State SSI Payment Change was issued to Petitioner stating the quarterly State SSI payment would been cancelled effective August 2024 because SSA notified the Department that Petitioner did not receive a regular first of the month SSI payment for three months. (Exhibit A, p. 3)
- 3. On September 3, 2024, Petitioner filed a hearing request contesting the Department's determination. (Exhibit A, pp. 3-6)

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 State SSI Payments (SSP) program is established by 20 CFR 416.2001-.2099 and the Social Security Act, 42 USC 1382e. The Department administers the program pursuant to MCL 400.10.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a cash benefit to needy persons who are aged (at least 65), blind or disabled. It is a federal program administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA). States are allowed the option to supplement the federal benefit with state funds. In Michigan SSI benefits include a basic federal benefit and an additional amount paid with state funds. BEM 660, October 1, 2021, p. 1.

For the SSP program, payments are made for only those months the recipient received a regular first of the month federal benefit. These are shown on SOLQ as a recurring payment dated the first of the month. SSPs are not issued for retroactive or supplemental federal benefits. BEM 660, October 1, 2021, p. 1.

In this case, Petitioner's SSA issued SSI benefits ended with the final SSI payment issued in May 2024. Accordingly, Petitioner's last SSP payment was also for March 2024 and the SSP case officially closed when this notice was issued in August 2024. (APLW Testimony).

Petitioner testified that the SSP payments were very helpful. Petitioner did not dispute that the SSI payments stopped. Petitioner stated that she has no income now, which is is making things that were difficult a lot harder. (Petitioner Testimony).

Petitioner was no longer eligible for the SSP program when she was no longer receiving SSI benefits. Accordingly, the Department properly closed Petitioner's SSP benefit case.

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 Petitioner's eligibility for the SSP program.

DECISION AND ORDER

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

CL/dm

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**

Amber Gibson

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