



Date Mailed: April 11, 2025

Docket No.: 25-007278

Case No.: [REDACTED]

Petitioner: [REDACTED]

«RECIP_FULL_NAME»
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This is an important legal document. Please have someone translate the document.

هذه وثيقة قانونية مهمة. يرجى أن يكون هناك شخص ما يترجم المستند.

এটি একটি গুরুত্বপূর্ণ আইনি ডকুমেন্ট। দয়া করে কেউ দস্তাবেজ অনুবাদ করুন।

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Ky është një dokument ligjor i rëndësishëm. Ju lutem, kini dikë ta përktheni dokumentin.

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; 45 CFR 99.1 to 99.33; and 45 CFR 205.10; and Mich Admin Code, R 792.11002. After due notice, a hearing was held via telephone conference on March 13, 2025. Petitioner appeared for the hearing and represented herself. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS or Department) was represented by Marcella Towns, Assistance Payments Worker.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly deny Petitioner's application for State Emergency Relief (SER) assistance with rent to prevent eviction?

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 or around [REDACTED] 2025, Petitioner submitted an application for SER requesting assistance with rent to prevent eviction. (Exhibit A, pp. 10-15)
2. The Department asserted that in processing the SER application, it determined that [REDACTED] Petitioner's place of residence was not registered as a provider with the State of Michigan in order to receive SER payments.

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3. The Department asserted that it made collateral contacts with the leasing office at [REDACTED] to obtain a provider ID number but received no response. (Exhibit A, p. 16)
 4. Petitioner asserted that the leasing office did submit the provider ID number to the Department. (Exhibit 1; Exhibit 2)
 5. On or around January 21, 2025, the Department sent Petitioner a State Emergency Relief Decision Notice advising that her request for SER assistance with rent to prevent eviction was denied because the group did not meet program requirements. The Department asserted that SER payments could not be approved because there was no provider ID number submitted. (Exhibit A, pp. 17-19)
 6. On or around February 12, 2025, Petitioner requested a hearing disputing the Department's actions with respect to the denial of the [REDACTED] 2025, SER application and the January 21, 2025, SER Decision Notice. (Exhibit A, pp. 3-8)
 7. Petitioner confirmed that a few days prior to the hearing, she returned her keys to the leasing office and moved her belongings out of the home.

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 Emergency Relief (SER) program is established by the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1-.119b. The SER program is administered by the Department (formerly known as the Department of Human Services) pursuant to MCL 400.10 and Mich Admin Code, R 400.7001-.7049.

In this case, Petitioner disputed the Department's denial of her [REDACTED] 2025, SER application requesting assistance with rent to prevent eviction. During the hearing, it was established that Petitioner submitted an application for SER assistance on December 19, 2024, that was also denied by the Department. Petitioner confirmed that she is not disputing the denial of the December 19, 2024, application, as she acknowledged she did not timely return requested documentation to the Department. It was also established that Petitioner submitted a third request for SER assistance on February 18, 2025, that was approved, provided that Petitioner submit verification of her required copayment. Because the February 18, 2025, application was submitted after Petitioner's February 12, 2025, request for hearing, the Department's actions with respect to the February 18, 2025, SER application will not be addressed with this hearing decision. See ERM 102; BAM 600.

SER assists individuals and families to resolve or prevent homelessness with relocation services by providing money for rent, security deposits, and moving expenses. ERM 303 (October 2024), p. 1. Additionally, SER provides immediate assistance to meet a current emergency. ERM 210 (October 2021), p. 1. The SER Glossary defines emergency as a situation in which immediate action is necessary to prevent serious harm or hardship. ERG Glossary (February 2017), p. 5. Having an emergency which threatens the health or safety of an individual that can be resolved through the issuance of SER is a requirement of receiving assistance. ERM 101 (March 2013), p. 1.

At the hearing, the Department representative testified that Petitioner's SER application was denied because there was no response to the Department's request for the provider ID number from the leasing office at [REDACTED]. The Department asserted that in order to make any approved payment for SER assistance, the provider must be enrolled in Bridges and registered in the SIGMA Vendor Self-Service system. ERM 401 (January 2024), p.1. Petitioner disputed the Department's testimony and argued that the representative from the leasing office provided the Department with the requested information via email. (Exhibit 1; Exhibit 2).

Although there was further discussion on the record concerning whether verification of the provider ID number was timely submitted, it was established through Petitioner's testimony that in the few days prior to the hearing, Petitioner had been evicted from her residence and turned in her keys to the landlord. Petitioner testified that she was given the option to pay the past due rent or vacate the premises. Petitioner testified that prior to the sheriff/bailiff removing her belongings via a court ordered writ, she moved out of the residence and moved her stuff out. Upon review, because the SER emergency has been resolved and reimbursement of services is not covered under SER policy, no SER payment can be made by the Department towards Petitioner's request for assistance, even if the application had been improperly denied.

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 Department policy when it denied Petitioner's [REDACTED] 2025, application for SER assistance.

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



ZAINAB A BAYDOUN
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE

APPEAL RIGHTS: Petitioner may appeal this Hearing Decision to the circuit court. Rules for appeals to the circuit court can be found in the Michigan Court Rules (MCR), including MCR 7.101 to MCR 7.123, available at the Michigan Courts website at courts.michigan.gov. The Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules (MOAHR) cannot provide legal advice, but assistance may be available through the State Bar of Michigan at <https://lrs.michbar.org> or Michigan Legal Help at <https://michiganlegalhelp.org>. A copy of the circuit court appeal should be sent to MOAHR. A circuit court appeal may result in a reversal of the Hearing Decision.

Either party who disagrees with this Hearing Decision may also send a written request for a rehearing and/or reconsideration to MOAHR within 30 days of the mailing date of this Hearing Decision. The request should include Petitioner's name, the docket number from page 1 of this Hearing Decision, an explanation of the specific reasons for the request, and any documents supporting the request. The request should be sent to MOAHR

- by email to MOAHR-BSD-Support@michigan.gov, **OR**
- by fax at (517) 763-0155, **OR**
- by mail addressed to
Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules
Rehearing/Reconsideration Request
P.O. Box 30639
Lansing Michigan 48909-8139

Documents sent via email are not secure and can be faxed or mailed to avoid any potential risks. Requests MOAHR receives more than 30 days from the mailing date of this Hearing Decision may be considered untimely and dismissed.

Via Electronic Mail:

Respondent

WAYNE-INKSTER-DHHS
26355 MICHIGAN AVE
INKSTER, MI 48141
**MDHHS-WAYNE-19-
HEARINGS@MICHIGAN.GOV**

Interested Parties

BSC4
E HOLZHAUSEN
J MCLAUGHLIN
MOAHR

Via First Class Mail:

Petitioner

_____ MI _____