

Date Mailed: May 15, 2025

Docket No.: 25-007638

Case No.: [REDACTED]

Petitioner: [REDACTED]

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 May 12, 2025. Petitioner appeared and was unrepresented. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS or Department) was represented by Karina Littles, Family Independence Manager and Nargis Wahid, Eligibility Specialist.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly deny Petitioner's request for Direct Support Services (DSS)?

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 November [REDACTED] 2024, Petitioner requested DSS benefits for the purchase of a new vehicle.
2. On January [REDACTED] 2025, the Department sent Petitioner a Notice of Case Action informing her that her request for benefits was denied (Exhibit A, pp. 5-8).
3. On February 7, 2025, Petitioner submitted a request for hearing disputing the Department's actions.

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).

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Direct Support Services (DSS) is established by the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1-.119b. The program is administered by the Department pursuant to MCL 400.10 and 400.57a and Mich Admin Code R 400.3603.

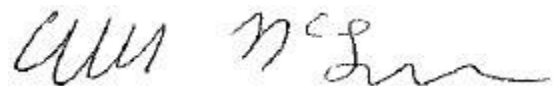
In this case, Petitioner submitted a request for DSS benefits. Petitioner requested assistance with the purchase of a vehicle. The Department denied Petitioner's request, as she was not a Family Independence Program (FIP) recipient, nor did she qualify as a Food Assistance Program (FAP) Family.

The Department provides goods and services to help families achieve self-sufficiency, including Employment Support Services (ESS), such as vehicle purchases. BEM 232 (October 2023), p. 1. To be eligible for ESS for vehicle purchases, the client must be a FIP or FAP Family recipient. BEM 232, pp. 3-4 and 16-17. A FAP family is an eligible group that includes a pregnant person, a child under age 18 or a child aged 18 who is in high school full time. BEM 232, p. 2.

The Department denied Petitioner's request for DSS as she is not pregnant, nor is there a child in the group that is under age 18. At the hearing Petitioner conceded that she is not pregnant and her child was 22 years old at the time she requested DSS. Therefore, the Department acted in accordance with policy when it denied Petitioner's DSS request.

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 request for DSS benefits. Accordingly, the Department's decision is **AFFIRMED**.



**ELLEN MCLEMORE
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 First Class-Electronic
Mail:**

Interested Parties

BSC4-HEARINGDECISIONS
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