



Date Mailed: April 25, 2025

Docket No.: 25-009157

Case No.:

Petitioner:

ALISHA RAMBIN  
PO BOX 28  
LINCOLN PARK, MI 48146

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

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### **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 hearing was held by telephone on April 2, 2025. Petitioner appeared and represented herself. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department) was represented by Ryane McArthur, Assistance Payments Worker, and Latora Giles, Assistance Payments Supervisor.

### **ISSUE**

Did the Department properly decline Petitioner's request for Direct Support Services (DSS) for a vehicle purchase?

### **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 requested DSS for the purchase of a vehicle through the Department's Partnership. Accountability. Training. Hope. program partner, Michigan Works Agency (MWA) (PATH).

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2. On February 24, 2025, the Department received a request for hearing from Petitioner disputing the Department's failure to approve her for DSS for the purchase of a vehicle. (Exhibit A, pp. 4 – 7).
  3. On February 25, 2025, PATH obtained a Secretary of State Clearance Request that reported Petitioner holds an active title for a [REDACTED] (Car) that was issued [REDACTED] 2019. (Exhibit A, p. 9).

### **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).

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.

DSS, which includes Employment Support Services (ESS), helps families secure goods and services, including the purchase of a vehicle, to help achieve self-sufficiency. BEM 232 (October 2023), p. 1. For Family Independence Program (FIP) clients served by the PATH program, PATH may authorize ESS to any program participant who is active on the One-Stop Management Information System (OSMIS). BEM 232, p. 6. DSS may be authorized up to \$5,000 for the purchase of a vehicle to be used as a participant's primary means of transportation for work or employment-related activities. BEM 232, pp. 16 – 17. However, the Department or PATH may not authorize funds for a vehicle purchase if the client owns a vehicle or has other means to reach a job site reliably. BEM 232, p. 17. Additionally, there is no entitlement for DSS, and the decision to authorize DSS is within the discretion of the Department or PATH program, based on local office funding. BEM 232, p. 1.

In this case, Petitioner requested DSS through PATH to purchase a vehicle and reported that she had no active vehicle titles in her name. PATH obtained a report from the Secretary of State that established that Petitioner has an active title for Car. Although Petitioner testified that she does not have the vehicle, was only a co-signer for the vehicle, and that the vehicle was repossessed, because Car is actively titled in her name, neither the Department nor PATH are permitted to authorize funds for a vehicle purchase unless a policy exception is granted by the appropriate policy unit of the Department. BEM 100 (April 2023), pp. 7 – 14. Additionally, because there is no entitlement for DSS, the decision to request a policy exception is solely at the discretion of the Department. Therefore, based on the totality of the foregoing, the Department acted in accordance with relevant policy when it did not authorize DSS funds to Petitioner for the purchase of a vehicle.

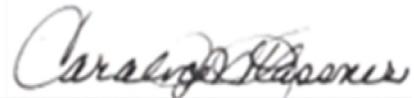
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## DECISION AND ORDER

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 did not authorize funds for Petitioner to purchase a vehicle.

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



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**CARALYCE M. LASSNER**  
**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](https://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](mailto: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-GREYDALE-DHHS  
27260 PLYMOUTH RD  
REDFORD, MI 48239

**MDHHS-WAYNE-15-GREYDALE-  
HEARINGS@MICHIGAN.GOV**



**Interested Parties**

N. DENSON-SOGBAKA  
B. CABANAW

**Via First Class Mail:**

**Petitioner**

