

**Date Mailed:** May 8, 2025

**Docket No.:** 25-010162

**Case No.:** [REDACTED]

**Petitioner:** [REDACTED] [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 April 8, 2025. Petitioner appeared and was unrepresented. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS or Department) was represented by Melissa Stanley, Hearing Facilitator (HF).

During the hearing proceeding, the Department's Hearing Summary packet was admitted as Exhibit A, pp. 1-25.

### **ISSUE**

Did the Department properly determine Petitioner's eligibility for Medical Assistance (MA)?

### **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 December [REDACTED] 2024, Petitioner submitted a Redetermination for MA. Petitioner reported her employment income from Montague Inn and her son's employment income from [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (Exhibit A, pp. 7-13)
2. Petitioner submitted verification of employment. (Exhibit A, pp. 14-15)
3. On February [REDACTED] 2025, a Health Care Coverage Determination Notice was issued to Petitioner reflecting that Petitioner's son was approved for full coverage MA under the Healthy Michigan Plan (MA-HMP) category and Petitioner was approved for limited coverage under the Plan First category. (Exhibit A, pp. 16-19)
4. On March [REDACTED] 2025, Petitioner filed a hearing request contesting the Department's determination. (Exhibit A, pp. 3-5)

25-010162

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## **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

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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 Medical Assistance (MA) program is established by Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 USC 1396-1396w-5; 42 USC 1315; the Affordable Care Act of 2010, the collective term for the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Pub. L. No. 111-148, as amended by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, Pub. L. No. 111-152; and 42 CFR 430.10-.25. The Department (formerly known as the Department of Human Services) administers the MA program pursuant to 42 CFR 435, MCL 400.10, and MCL 400.105-.112k.

The Medicaid program comprise several sub-programs or categories. To receive MA under an SSI-related category, the person must be aged (65 or older), blind, disabled, entitled to Medicare or formerly blind or disabled. Medicaid eligibility for children under 19, parents or caretakers of children, pregnant or recently pregnant women, former foster children, MOMS, MIChild, Flint Water Group and Healthy Michigan Plan is based on Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) methodology. In general, the terms Group 1 and Group 2 relate to financial eligibility factors. For Group 1, net income (countable income minus allowable income deductions) must be at or below a certain income limit for eligibility to exist. The income limit, which varies by category, is for nonmedical needs such as food and shelter. Medical expenses are not used when determining eligibility for MAGI-related and SSI-related Group 1 categories. For Group 2, eligibility is possible even when net income exceeds the income limit. This is because incurred medical expenses are used when determining eligibility for Group 2 categories. Group 2 categories are considered a limited benefit as a deductible is possible. BEM 105, January 1, 2024, p. 1.

Plan First MA is a MAGI-related limited coverage Medicaid group available to any United States citizen or individual with an immigration status entitling them to full Medicaid coverage residing in Michigan. The fiscal group's net income cannot exceed 195 percent of the federal poverty level. BEM 124, July 1, 2023, p. 1.

Petitioner was only potentially eligible for full coverage MA under the Healthy Michigan Plan (MA-HMP) category based on the information provided on the Redetermination. For example, based on the information reported, Petitioner was not under age 19 or 21, aged, disabled, blind, pregnant, or a parent or caretaker relative a dependent child. (Exhibit A, pp. 7-13).

Healthy Michigan Plan (MA-HMP) is based on Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) methodology. The MA-HMP provides health care coverage for individuals who: are

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19-64 years of age; do not qualify for or are not enrolled in Medicare; do not qualify for or are not enrolled in other Medicaid programs; are not pregnant at the time of application; meet Michigan residency requirements; meet Medicaid citizenship requirements; and have income at or below 133 percent Federal Poverty Level (FPL). BEM 137, January 1, 2024, p. 1.

Medicaid eligibility is determined on a calendar month basis. Unless policy specifies otherwise, circumstances that existed, or are expected to exist, during the calendar month being tested are used to determine eligibility for that month. When determining eligibility for a future month, assume circumstances as of the processing date will continue unchanged unless you have information that indicates otherwise. BEM 105, January 1, 2024, p. 2. This is consistent with 42 CFR § 435.603(h), which states that financial eligibility for Medicaid for applicants must be based on current monthly household income and family size.

In February 2025, the 2024 FPL was still in effect. The 2024 FPL for the 48 contiguous states and the District of Columbia for a group size of one is an annual income of \$15,060. Accordingly, 133% of FPL is \$20,029.80 for a group size of one. Divided by 12, this would equate to \$1,669.15 per month. (Exhibit A, pp. 24-25).

The Department counts the gross wage amount as earned income. BEM 501, January 1, 2024, p. 7.

In this case, the Department determined that Petitioner was not eligible for MA under the Healthy Michigan Plan category (MA-HMP) based on income exceeding the program limit. (Exhibit A, pp. 1 and 16-23). On the Redetermination, Petitioner reported employment with [REDACTED] 80 hours, \$[REDACTED] every two weeks. (Exhibit A, p. 9). The employment verification shows Petitioner was working 84.32-87.15 hours and earning \$[REDACTED] to \$[REDACTED] every two weeks. (Exhibit A, pp. 14-15). Petitioner's monthly income exceeded the monthly limit for HMP of \$1,669.15.

Petitioner acknowledged that she may be a bit over the income limit for MA-HMP. Petitioner explained that due to her medical conditions, there are very expensive medications, ultrasounds, blood work, etc. that she requires. Petitioner must also follow an appropriate diet, which is expensive. (Petitioner Testimony).

This Administrative Law Judge must review the Department's determination under the existing policies and has no authority to change or make any exceptions to the applicable policies, which include the income limit for MA-HMP.

Based on the available income information, the Department properly determined that Petitioner's income exceeded the applicable income limit for MA-HMP.

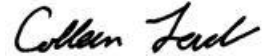
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## **DECISION AND ORDER**

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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 MA.

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



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**COLLEEN LACK**  
**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](http://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:**

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**Petitioner**

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