

Date Mailed: May 23, 2025

Docket No.: 25-013126

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 May 14, 2025. Petitioner appeared and was represented by [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS or Department) was represented by Eugene Brown, Overpayment Establishment Analyst. Suvechya Rahman served as Bengali Interpreter. Department Exhibit 1, pp. 1-80 was received and admitted.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly determine that Petitioner received an overissuance of Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits due to agency error?

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 a recipient of FAP benefits.
2. Petitioner's spouse had employment income that was not budgeted due to Department error.
3. On March [REDACTED] 2025, Notice of Overissuance was sent to Petitioner alleging that he received an overissuance of FAP benefits in the amount of \$[REDACTED] from July 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024, because employment income was not budgeted correctly.
4. On April 1, 2025, Petitioner requested hearing disputing the determination of overissuance.

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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 Food Assistance Program (FAP) [formerly known as the Food Stamp program] is established by the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended, 7 USC 2011 to 2036a and is implemented by the federal regulations contained in 7 CFR 273. The Department (formerly known as the Department of Human Services) administers FAP pursuant to MCL 400.10, the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1-.119b, and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3001-.3011.

AGENCY ERROR EXCEPTIONS

FIP, SDA, CDC and FAP

Agency error overissuances are not pursued if the estimated amount is less than \$250 per program. BAM 705 (October 2018)

OVERISSUANCE PROCESSING

FIP, SDA, CDC and FAP

Agency errors (other than CDC **system** errors) are not pursued if the amount is under \$250 per program. BAM 705 (October 2018)

COMPROMISED CLAIMS

FAP Only

MDHHS can compromise (reduce or eliminate) an overissuance if it is determined that a household's economic circumstances are such that the overissuance cannot be paid within three years. A request for a policy exception must be made from the RS to the Overpayment, Research and Verification Section office outlining the facts of the situation and the client's financial hardship. The manager of the MDHHS Overpayment, Research and Verification Section has final authorization on the determination for all compromised claims. Send to: Overpayment Recovery and State Psychiatric Hospital Reimbursement Division Overpayment Research and Verification Section Suite 1011 235 S. Grand Ave P.O. Box 30037, BAM 725

In this case, Petitioner's husband received employment income that was not budgeted. The Department had the correct information about Petitioner's husband's employment income so the Department characterized the overissuance as agency error. As a result, Petitioner received \$[REDACTED] in FAP benefit from the time period from July 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024, due to agency error. Department policy requires that agency error overissuances be recouped if they are over \$250. BAM 705

At hearing, Petitioner questioned why he should be responsible for the overissuance when it resulted from Department error. It was explained that overissuances above \$250 must be recouped even if they resulted from agency error.

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 that Petitioner received an overissuance of FAP benefits in the amount of \$[REDACTED] during the time period from July 1, 2024, and December 31, 2024, due to agency error.

DECISION AND ORDER

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



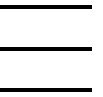
AARON MCCLINTIC
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE

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:

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HOLDENM

BSC4HEARINGDECISIONS

MOAHR

Via First Class Mail:

Petitioner

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]