



**Date Mailed:** August 27, 2025

**Docket No.:** 25-021878

**Case No.:** [REDACTED]

**Petitioner:** [REDACTED]

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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.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] MI [REDACTED]

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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; 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 July 28, 2025. Petitioner appeared for the hearing and represented himself. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS or Department) was represented by Corlette Brown, Hearing Facilitator.

### **ISSUE**

Did the Department properly process and deny Petitioner's application for State Emergency Relief (SER) assistance?

### **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 assistance with home repairs, specifically, tree removal that was leaning and going to fall on his home causing damage. With the application, Petitioner included estimates for the cost of the repair. (Exhibit A, pp. 7-22)
2. On or around May 13, 2025, the Department sent Petitioner an Application Notice advising him that he is not eligible for SER because he withdrew or failed to complete the application process. (Exhibit B, pp. 2-5).
3. On or around June 5, 2025, Petitioner requested a hearing disputing the Department's actions with respect to the SER program.

### **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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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 requested a hearing disputing the Department's actions with respect to the SER program.

SER assists with energy-related and non-energy-related home repairs to correct unsafe conditions and restore essential services. ERM 304 (October 2024), p. 1. Non-energy-related repairs include all home repairs for client owned housing except furnace repair or replacement.. Authorization for payment of non-energy-related home repairs is only made if essential to remove a direct threat to health or safety or is required by law or a mobile home park regulation. The repair must restore the home to a safe, livable condition and SER does not pay for improvements or not essential repairs. ERM 304, pp. 2-4.

Although it was established that Petitioner submitted an application for SER assistance on April 4, 2025, that was denied on April 9, 2025, Petitioner confirmed that his dispute was regarding the denial of the ██████████ 2025, SER application for assistance with home repairs/tree removal. Petitioner asserted that he obtained multiple estimates and provided them to the Department to show that a tree was leaning towards his home and going to fall on his home, causing damage.

At the hearing, through its Hearing Summary, the Department initially asserted that the application was denied because tree removal is not a covered service according to SER policy. However, case comments presented for review suggest that Petitioner's application was being processed and would possibly be approved; however, a provider ID number for his approved service provider was required prior to the approval. (Exhibit A; Exhibit B). There was no evidence that Petitioner was instructed to submit verification of a provider ID number in order for his request to be approved. Additionally, the Department acknowledged that the denial reason identified on the May 13, 2025, Application Notice was incorrect, as Petitioner did not withdraw his application and did not fail to complete the application process. The Department representative present for the hearing acknowledged that she had no information regarding the processing of Petitioner's application and the multiple inconsistencies/discrepancies reflected in the evidence. Thus, the Department will be ordered to reprocess Petitioner's request for SER assistance with home repairs.

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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 failed to satisfy its burden of showing that it acted in accordance with Department policy when it denied Petitioner's [REDACTED] 2025, application for SER assistance with home repairs and tree removal.

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

THE DEPARTMENT IS ORDERED TO BEGIN DOING THE FOLLOWING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH DEPARTMENT POLICY AND CONSISTENT WITH THIS HEARING DECISION, WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE DATE OF MAILING OF THIS DECISION AND ORDER:

1. Register and process Petitioner's [REDACTED] 2025, application for SER assistance with home repairs;
2. Supplement Petitioner and/or his SER provider for any SER benefits that he was eligible to receive but did not from the [REDACTED] 2025, application date, ongoing; and
3. Notify Petitioner in writing of its decision.

  
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**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](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.

