



Date Mailed: September 30, 2025
Docket No.: 25-024693
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

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هذه وثيقة قانونية مهمة. يرجى أن يكون هناك شخص ما يترجم المستند.

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

Este es un documento legal importante. Por favor, que alguien traduzca el documento.

这是一份重要的法律文件。请让别人翻译文件。

Ky është një dokument ligjor i rëndësishëm. Ju lutem, kini dikë ta përktheni dokumentin.

Date Mailed: September 30, 2025

Docket No.: 25-024693

Case No.: [REDACTED]

Petitioner: [REDACTED]

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE: Christian Gardocki

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 telephone hearing was held via Microsoft Teams on September 24, 2025. Petitioner participated and was unrepresented. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) was represented by Latora Giles, supervisor.

ISSUE

The issue is whether MDHHS properly denied Petitioner's application for Family Independence Program (FIP) benefits.

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 March [REDACTED] 2025, Petitioner applied for FIP benefits.
2. As of March [REDACTED] 2025, Client received ongoing Child Development and Care (CDC) benefits since at least 2024.
3. On April [REDACTED] 2025, MDHHS mailed Petitioner a Partnership. Accountability. Training. Hope. (PATH) Appointment Notice instructing Petitioner to attend PATH orientation on April [REDACTED] 2025.
4. On April [REDACTED] 2025, Petitioner participated in PATH orientation and was instructed to return the following date to continue the 10-day Application Eligibility Process (AEP).
5. As of May [REDACTED] 2025, Petitioner was a no-call/no-show to PATH after orientation.
6. As of May [REDACTED] 2025, Petitioner had not reported to MDHHS or MWA an inability to complete the AEP.

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7. On May █ 2025, MDHHS denied Petitioner's application due to Petitioner allegedly failing to complete the PATH orientation process.
 8. On June 25, 2025, Petitioner requested a hearing to dispute the denial of FIP benefits.
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CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The FIP was established pursuant to the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-193, and 42 USC 601 to 679c. MDHHS administers FIP pursuant to 45 CFR 233to 45 CFR 261; MCL 400.10; the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1 *et seq.*; and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3101 to R 400.3131. FIP policies are contained in the Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM), and Reference Tables Manual (RFT).

Petitioner timely requested a hearing on June 25, 2025, to dispute a denial of FIP benefits.¹ Exhibit A, p. 4. It was not disputed that Petitioner applied for FIP benefits on March █ 2025. A Notice of Case Action dated May █ 2025, stated that Petitioner's application was denied due to failing to complete the PATH orientation process. Exhibit A, pp. 5-12. In other words, Petitioner did not complete the AEP.

Federal and state laws require each work eligible individual (WEI) in the FIP group to participate in PATH or other employment-related activity unless temporarily deferred or engaged in activities that meet participation requirements. BEM 230A (October 2022) p. 1. These clients must participate in employment and/or self-sufficiency related activities to increase their employability and obtain employment. *Id.* PATH is administered by the Talent and Economic Development (TED), State of Michigan through the Michigan one-stop service centers. *Id.* PATH serves employers and job seekers for employers to have skilled workers and job seekers to obtain jobs that provide economic self-sufficiency. *Id.*

Completion of the 10-day AEP part of orientation is an eligibility requirement for approval of the FIP application. BEM 229 (April 2025) p. 1. MDHHS is to deny the FIP application if an applicant does not complete all three components of the AEP. *Id.* The following three AEP components must be completed for the FIP application to be approved:

- Begin the AEP by the last date to attend as indicated on the DHS-4785, PATH Appointment Notice.
- Complete PATH AEP requirements.
- Continue to participate in PATH after completion of the 10-day AEP.

It was not disputed that Petitioner attended PATH orientation on April █ 2025. Comments from Petitioner's assigned PATH worker indicated that Petitioner was informed to return to PATH on April █ 2025. Exhibit A, pp. 15-16. The comments also

¹ Though Petitioner's hearing request was timely, the hearing request and testimony alleged that an earlier hearing request was submitted to MDHHS.

stated that Petitioner was a no-call/no-show after PATH orientation for multiple workshops and that she did not complete the AEP. *Id.*

Petitioner testified she called MDHHS the day after attending orientation to report that she could not further attend PATH because of a need to attend to the needs of her autistic daughter. Petitioner testified her daughter started attending school around the time of PATH orientation and that Petitioner needed to be on standby in case her autistic daughter needed her. As an example, Petitioner testified that she was called on April █ 2025, to bring a change of clothing after her daughter had a bathroom accident. Petitioner also testified she submitted documents to MDHHS explaining her daughter's needs before her application was denied.

MDHHS testified that it had no record of Petitioner calling before application denial explaining why Petitioner's PATH attendance halted after orientation. MDHHS also testified that it received no documentation from Petitioner before application denial excusing Petitioner from completing the AEP.²

Petitioner's stated excuse to complete the AEP failed to explain why she did not attend PATH after orientation and leave if called by her daughter's school. As an example, Petitioner's testimony acknowledged that she did not receive a call from her daughter's school on the date of PATH orientation. Additionally, the evidence failed to establish that MDHHS or PATH was timely informed of Petitioner's reasoning to halt the AEP.

The evidence established that MDHHS properly concluded that Petitioner failed to complete the AEP. Thus, MDHHS properly denied Petitioner's application for FIP benefits. As discussed during the hearing, Petitioner's recourse is to reapply for benefits if FIP benefits are still needed.³

² MDHHS also testified it did not receive such documentation from Petitioner until September 22, 2025:

³ Petitioner testified that she was told by MDHHS that she could not reapply until completing the hearings process. Petitioner was advised that she can reapply benefits while simultaneously undergoing the hearings process.

DECISION AND ORDER

The administrative law judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, finds that MDHHS properly denied Petitioner's FIP application dated March 2025. The actions taken by MDHHS are **AFFIRMED**.



**CHRISTIAN GARDOCKI
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.

25-024693

Via Electronic Mail:

Respondent

WAYNE COUNTY DHHS -
GREYDALE DIST 15
27260 PLYMOUTH RD
REDFORD, MI 48239

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

Via First Class Mail:

Petitioner

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]