



Date Mailed: September 8, 2025
Docket No.: 25-026748
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
MI [REDACTED]

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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; 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 August 27, 2025. Petitioner appeared and was unrepresented. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS or Department) was represented by Remy Williams, Eligibility Specialist.

ISSUE

Did MDHHS properly deny Petitioner's Family Independence Program (FIP) application?

FINDINGS OF FACT

The Administrative Law Judge, based on the competent, material, and substantial evidence on the whole record, finds as material fact:

1. From August 2005 through November 2011, and from March 2012 through September 2012 Petitioner received FIP benefits (Exhibit A, pp. 14-37).
2. On [REDACTED] 2025, Petitioner applied for FIP benefits (Exhibit A, pp. 7-13).
3. On June 24, 2025, MDHHS issued a Notice of Case Action to Petitioner, informing her that her FIP application was denied due to reaching the federal time limit maximum.
4. On July 16, 2025, MDHHS received Petitioner's timely submitted hearing request disputing the denial of her FIP application (Exhibit A, pp. 3-5).

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 Family Independence Program (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. The Department (formerly known as the Department of Human Services) administers FIP pursuant to 45 CFR 233-260, MCL 400.10, the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1-.119b, and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3101-.3131.

Petitioner applied for FIP benefits on June 5, 2025. MDHHS denied this application, as Petitioner has reached the 60-month federal maximum time limit to receive cash assistance. Petitioner disputes the denial of her FIP application.

FIP is a cash assistance program designed to help individuals and families become self-sufficient. Cash assistance is available to eligibility determination groups (EDG) who meet all of the non-financial and financial requirements that are needed to determine eligibility and calculate benefits amounts. In order to evaluate FIP eligibility, a FIP EDG must exist, based on the FIP group composition rules in BEM 210. BEM 209 (January 2022), pp. 1-5. To be eligible for FIP benefits, the group must include a dependent child who lives with a legal parent, stepparent, or other qualifying caretaker; and the group cannot include an adult who has accumulated more than 60 TANF funded months, beginning October 1, 1996, or any other time limits in the FIP; see BEM 234. As of April 1, 2025, changes in Michigan law increased the allowable cumulative total of FIP to 60 months during an individual's lifetime. Under the Family Independence Program, a family is not eligible for assistance beyond 60 consecutive or non-consecutive federally funded months. A family is ineligible when a mandatory member of the FIP group reaches the 60 TANF-funded month federal time limit. BEM 234 (April 2025), pp. 1-2.

In this case, MDHHS presented evidence that Petitioner received FIP cash assistance for more than 60 months (see Exhibit A, pp. 14-37). While Petitioner argues that she did not receive benefits for this length of time, she failed to present any evidence to corroborate her argument. As Petitioner received more than 60 months of cash assistance, she is not eligible to receive FIP benefits. Therefore, MDHHS acted in accordance with policy in denying Petitioner's FIP application.

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 denied Petitioner's FIP application.

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



DANIELLE NUCCIO
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://irs.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.

25-026748



Via Electronic Mail:

Respondent

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Via First Class Mail:

Petitioner

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