



Date Mailed: September 11, 2025

Docket No.: 25-029190

Case No.: [REDACTED]

Petitioner: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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দ্বারা অনুবাদ করুন।

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Ky është një dokument ligjor i rëndësishëm. Ju
lутем, кини дикë та пëркtheni dokumentin.

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HEARING DECISION

On July 29, 2025, Petitioner [REDACTED] requested a hearing to dispute a Family Independence Program (FIP) determination. As a result, a hearing was scheduled to be held on September 9, 2025. Public assistance hearings are held 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; 45 CFR 205.10; and Mich Admin Code, R 792.11002.

The parties appeared for the scheduled hearing. Petitioner appeared and represented herself. Respondent Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (Department) had Hearings Coordinator Rebecca Ridley appear as its representative. There were no other participants.

Both parties provided sworn testimony, and one exhibit was admitted into evidence. A 49-page packet of documents provided by the Department was admitted into evidence collectively as Exhibit A.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly determine Petitioner's FIP cash assistance eligibility?

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 June [REDACTED] 2025, Petitioner applied for FIP cash assistance.
2. The Department reviewed Petitioner's application, and the Department determined that Petitioner had already received the maximum number of countable months of FIP cash assistance.
3. Petitioner had received 60 countable months of federally funded FIP cash assistance benefits as of August 2016. Petitioner received these benefits from August 2004 to August 2016.
4. On July [REDACTED] 2025, the Department mailed a notice of case action to Petitioner to notify her that her application for FIP cash assistance was denied because she had

already received the maximum number of countable months of FIP cash assistance.

5. Petitioner requested a hearing to dispute the Department's decision.

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 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.

In this case, the Department denied Petitioner's application for FIP cash assistance because the Department determined that Petitioner had already received the maximum number of countable months of FIP cash assistance. Petitioner is disputing the Department's decision. Thus, the issue is whether the Department properly determined that Petitioner was ineligible for FIP cash assistance benefits because she had already received the maximum number of countable months of FIP cash assistance.

FIP cash assistance is intended to be temporary. BEM 234 (April 1, 2025), p. 1. The maximum number of months of FIP cash assistance a family may receive is 60 federally funded months. *Id.* at 1-2. Each month an individual receives federally funded FIP cash assistance is a countable month. *Id.* at 2. However, the Department cannot count the months that an individual received federally funded FIP cash assistance benefits when the individual was a minor child and not the head of household (or married to the head of household). 42 USC 608(a)(7)(B).

Based on the evidence presented, the Department properly determined that Petitioner had received 60 federally funded months of FIP cash assistance. From August 2004 to August 2016, Petitioner received 60 federally funded months of FIP cash assistance. This does not include any months that Petitioner received federally funded months of FIP cash assistance while she was a minor child. Since the maximum number of months of FIP cash assistance a family may receive is 60 federally funded months, and since Petitioner has already received 60 federally funded months of FIP cash assistance, the Department properly determined that Petitioner was ineligible for FIP cash assistance. Therefore, the Department's decision is affirmed.

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 its policies and the applicable law when it determined Petitioner's FIP cash assistance eligibility.

IT IS ORDERED that the Department's decision is **AFFIRMED**.



JEFFREY KEMM
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:

Respondent

GENESEE COUNTY DHHS CLIO RD
DIST
4809 CLIO RD
FLINT, MI 48502
**MDHHS-GENESEE-CLIO-
HEARINGS@MICHIGAN.GOV**

Via First Class Mail:

Petitioner

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]