

Date Mailed: November 6, 2025
Docket No.: 25-033102
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Petitioner: [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; 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 hearing was held on October 22, 2025, via teleconference. Petitioner appeared and represented himself. Assistant Attorney General H. Daniel Beaton, Jr. represented Respondent Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (Department). Becky Fraser, Family Independence Manager, appeared as a witness for the Department.

At the October 22, 2025, hearing, Petitioner indicated that Petitioner would be appearing on Petitioner's own behalf without representation. Petitioner also indicated that Petitioner did not receive a copy of the Department's 104-page packet of proposed exhibits. Therefore, the October 22, 2025, hearing was continued to allow the Department time to remail a copy of the proposed exhibits to Petitioner.

On October 27, 2025, Assistant Attorney General H. Daniel Beaton, Jr. withdrew his appearance on behalf of the Department.

On November 5, 2025, a continued hearing was held via teleconference. Petitioner appeared and represented himself. Becky Fraser, Family Independence Manager, represented the Department.

A 104-page packet of documents provided by the Department was admitted collectively as the Department's Exhibit A.

A 15-page packet of documents provided by the Department was admitted collectively as the Petitioner's Exhibit 1.

ISSUES

Did the Department properly deny Petitioner's application for Food Assistance Program (FAP) and State Disability Assistance (SDA) 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 August 4, 2025, Petitioner applied for SDA cash assistance.
2. On August 14, 2025, Petitioner completed an interview with the Department and reported that Petitioner's assets exceed \$15,000.00
3. On September 2, 2025, the Department mailed a notice of case action to Petitioner to notify Petitioner that Petitioner's countable assets exceeded the limit to be eligible for SDA cash assistance benefits.
4. On September 8, 2025, Petitioner requested a hearing to dispute the Department's determination.

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).

FAP

The FAP 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 administers FAP pursuant to MCL 400.10, the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1-119b, and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3001-.3011.

At the hearing, Petitioner indicated that Petitioner did not wish to proceed with a hearing regarding Petitioner's FAP benefits. The Department had no objection. Therefore, Petitioner's request for hearing concerning Petitioner's FAP benefits is dismissed.

SDA

The SDA program is established by the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1-119b. MDHHS administers the SDA program pursuant to 42 CFR 435, MCL 400.10 and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3151-.3180.

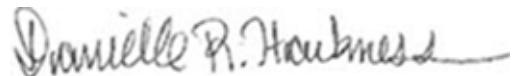
The asset limit for SDA cash assistance is \$15,000.00. BEM 400 (March 1, 2025), p. 5. Do not require verification when countable assets exceed the limit based on a person's own statement of value. *Id.* at 62.

Petitioner does not dispute that Petitioner's assets exceed the asset limit of \$15,000.00. Based on the evidence presented, Petitioner failed to establish that the Department improperly denied Petitioner's SDA application due to excess assets.

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 application for SDA cash assistance benefits.

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



DANIELLE R. HARKNESS
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.

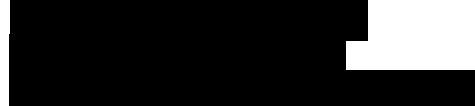
Via Electronic Mail:

Respondent

KENT COUNTY DHHS
121 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR ST SE
STE 200
GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49507
MDHHS-KENT-HEARINGS@MICHIGAN.GOV

Via First Class Mail:

Petitioner

A large rectangular area of the page is completely blacked out, indicating a redacted address for the Petitioner.