



**Date Mailed:** October 22, 2025  
**Docket No.:** 25-033784  
**Case No.:** [REDACTED]  
**Petitioner:** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
MI [REDACTED]

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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.

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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 October 20, 2025. Petitioner appeared and was unrepresented. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS or Department) was represented by Deanna Dean, Eligibility Specialist.

### **ISSUE**

Did the Department properly deny Petitioner's application for State Emergency Relief (SER) 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 [REDACTED] 2025, Petitioner submitted an application for SER benefits for assistance with relocation services (Exhibit A, pp. 12-28).
2. On September 4, 2025, Petitioner completed an interview related to her application. Petitioner reported that she was homeless and that she had to leave her residence as a result of domestic violence. Petitioner stated she was living with her parents.
3. On September 8, 2025, the Department sent Petitioner a State Emergency Relief Decision Notice informing her that her application for SER benefits was denied (Exhibit A, pp. 22-24).
4. On September 11, 2025, Petitioner submitted a request for hearing disputing the Department's actions.

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## 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 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 submitted an application for SER benefits for assistance with rent to prevent eviction. Petitioner reported that she had to leave her residence as a result of domestic violence. Petitioner notified the Department that she was residing with her parents. The Department denied Petitioner's application for SER benefits indicating that Petitioner did not meet the definition of homelessness and there was no emergency.

SER assists individuals and families to resolve or prevent homelessness by providing money for rent, security deposits, and moving expenses. ERM 303 (October 2015), p. 1. The Department authorizes SER benefits for relocation services if (i) the group is homeless; (ii) at risk of homelessness; or (iii) the group meets the eligibility requirements for certain homeless assistance programs. ERM 303, pp. 1-2. A group living with friends or relatives is not homeless, even if the arrangement is temporary unless (i) the group is living temporarily with other persons following a fire or natural disaster that occurred not more than 60 days before the date the group files an application for SER; (ii) the group is living with other persons to escape a domestic violence situation; or (iii) the group meets eligibility criteria for certain homeless assistance programs. ERM 303, pp. 2-3.

At the hearing, the Department conceded that Petitioner's SER application was denied in error, as Petitioner meets the exception for an individual living with other persons to escape a domestic violence situation. Therefore, the Department did not act in accordance with policy when it denied Petitioner's SER application.

## DECISION AND ORDER

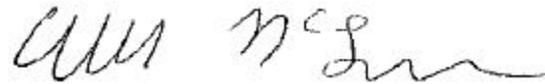
The Administrative Law Judge, based on the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and for the reasons stated on the record, if any, finds that the Department did not act in accordance with Department policy when it denied Petitioner's SER application.

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

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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. Reinstate and reprocess Petitioner's [REDACTED] 2025 SER application;
2. If Petitioner is eligible for SER benefits, issue supplements in accordance with Department policy; and
3. Notify Petitioner of its SER decision in writing.



**ELLEN MCLEMORE  
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](https://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

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