



Date Mailed: November 6, 2025

Docket No.: 25-033930

Case No.: [REDACTED]

Petitioner: [REDACTED]

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

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

[REDACTED]
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[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; 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 13, 2025. Petitioner appeared for the hearing and represented herself. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS or Department) was represented by Rebecca Scott, Assistance Payments Supervisor.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly deny Petitioner's Family Independence Program (FIP) clothing allowance?

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

1. Petitioner was an ongoing recipient of FIP benefits.
2. The Department asserted that mail that had been sent to Petitioner on previous occasions was returned to the Department by the US Postal Service as undeliverable.
3. On July 7, 2025, the Department sent Petitioner a Notice of Case Action advising her that effective August 1, 2025, her FIP case would be closed because verification of unable to locate household was not returned. (Exhibit A, pp. 9-14)
4. On July 14, 2025, the Department sent Petitioner a DHS-1111-6, Clothing Allowance letter advising that records indicate she is receiving FIP benefits for children in her home and that in August 2025, she will receive a clothing allowance supplement in the amount of [REDACTED] for each child to aid in the purchase of school clothes for the upcoming school year. The letter further indicates that the funds will be deposited on her Bridge Card during the first week in August if her family remains eligible for FIP assistance. (Exhibit A, p. 6)

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5. Petitioner received her FIP benefits for the month of July 2025. However, Petitioner's FIP case closed effective August 1, 2025.
 6. On or around September 2, 2025, the Department received Petitioner's request for hearing, disputing the Department's failure to issue the clothing allowance. (Exhibit A, pp. 3-5)
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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 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.

In this case, Petitioner disputed the Department's failure to issue the FIP clothing allowance on behalf of her two children.

The 2025 Fiscal Appropriations Act included funding for the children's clothing allowance which is intended to assist FIP families to purchase school clothing for their children. The 2025 fiscal year clothing allowance is █████ per child. The child must be eligible for FIP during August 2025. Bridges will automatically issue supplements for the children's clothing allowance to FIP groups with qualifying children who are eligible for August 2025 FIP payments as of the single deadline date of July 31, 2025. The children's clothing allowance supplement is deposited into the client's EBT cash account. The supplement will be automatically issued if the FIP group is active on July 31, 2025, for August benefits. The supplement will be deposited into the client's EBT cash account at the same time as the FIP payment is issued but will appear as a separate payment with an availability date of August 1, 2025. A letter from the Department's director will be mailed to eligible households in July 2025. Additionally, once the funding for the children's clothing allowance is depleted, there will be no additional funds allocated, regardless of the eligibility of the FIP group. BPB 2025-020 Bridges August 2025 Clothing Allowance (August 1, 2025), pp. 1-2.

At the hearing, the Department representative testified that although the Department director issued the DHS-1111-6, Clothing Allowance letter advising Petitioner that she would receive the clothing allowance for eligible children in her home, because, according to the July 7, 2025, Notice of Case Action, Petitioner's FIP case was closed effective August 1, 2025, she was no longer eligible to receive the clothing allowance payment. Petitioner did not receive the clothing allowance, as the Department asserted

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she did not have an active FIP case effective August 1, 2025. It was established that Petitioner reapplied for FIP benefits on August 1, 2025, and was subsequently approved. The Department asserted that Petitioner was issued FIP benefits beginning August 6, 2025, based on the approval of her new FIP application.

Petitioner argued that her FIP case should not have closed effective August 1, 2025, as she had submitted proof of her location and address. Petitioner also asserted that because she received her FIP benefits for July 2025 and August 2025, her case was not technically closed, and she should be eligible for the FIP clothing allowance as she received August 2025 FIP benefits. Additionally, notwithstanding Petitioner's argument that her FIP case was improperly closed, the Department representative testified that the clothing allowance funds for 2025 have been depleted and there are no clothing allowance funds available for any supplemental issuance. Upon review, however, pursuant to BPB 2025-020, because Petitioner's FIP EDG was not active on July 31, 2025, for August 2025, benefits, the clothing allowance supplement was properly not issued.

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 failed to issue the FIP clothing allowance.

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



ZAINAB A BAYDOUN
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

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Via First Class Mail:

Petitioner

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED], MI [REDACTED]

