

Date Mailed: October 24, 2025

Docket No.: 25-035412

Case No.: [REDACTED]

Petitioner: [REDACTED]

HEARING DECISION

On September 3, 2025, [REDACTED] requested a hearing to dispute public assistance benefits. As a result, a hearing was scheduled to be held on October 23, 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; and 45 CFR 205.10; and Mich Admin Code, R 792.11002. Petitioner appeared at the hearing on Petitioner's own behalf. Respondent Department of Health and Human Services (Department) had Eligibility Specialist Amy Pilto appear as its representative.

A 17-page packet of documents provided by the Department was admitted collectively as the Department's Exhibit A.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly issue summer EBT (SEBT) benefits for Phoenix Walker (PW) and Sapphire Davis (SD)?

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 May 17, 2025, the Department issued [REDACTED] in SEBT benefits for PW and SD.
2. On May 18, 2025, the Department issued a duplicate payment of [REDACTED] in SEBT benefits for PW and SD.
3. On May 18, 2025, the Department removed the duplicate payment of [REDACTED] in SEBT benefits that was made in error on May 18, 2025.
4. The Department issued the SEBT benefits pursuant to guidelines that are set forth in its Frequently Asked Questions document. That document set the following guidelines:
 - a. **If your student is active Food Assistance Program (FAP) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) (cash assistance) with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services**

(MDHHS) the SEBT benefits will be issued to the Bridge Card associated with the active case.

- b. If there is no active FAP or TANF case but the student has an active Medicaid case with MDHHS, the SEBT benefits will be issued on a SEBT card and mailed to the address of the active Medicaid case.
 - c. If the student has no active MDHHS case, a new SEBT card will be sent to the address that is currently on file with the student's school.
5. Beginning May 18, 2025, numerous transactions were made on the Bridge Card in which the SEBT benefits were issued.
 6. Petitioner had applied for and been approved to receive FAP benefits for PW and SD.
 7. Petitioner asserted that the SEBT benefits for PW and SD were not received.
 8. A request for hearing was submitted on September 3, 2025, asserting that the SEBT benefits for PW and SD were not received.

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 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.

This dispute involves SEBT benefits. The SEBT program is a federally funded program that provides grocery-buying benefits to low-income families with school-age children when schools are closed for the summer as a supplement to summer meal sites. BEM 619 (May 1, 2025), p. 1. A one-time lump sum benefit of [REDACTED] per eligible child is issued. *Id.* at 2. This payment covers the months of June, July, and August. *Id.* Students are issued the SEBT benefits one of the following ways:

1. Benefits for children on existing FAP, TANF, or FDPIR groups will be placed on the head of household's Bridge card associated with the case.
2. Benefits for children in an existing MA group will be placed on a new card in the head of household's name and include all eligible children in the group.

3. Benefits for children enrolled in the NSLP/SBP and found eligible through the SEBT application process will receive individual cards.

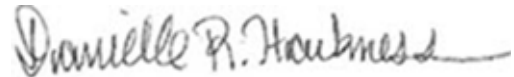
Id. at 3.

Petitioner asserted that SEBT benefits for PW and SD were not received. However, based on the evidence presented at the hearing, [REDACTED] in SEBT benefits were added to Petitioner's Bridge Card on May 17, 2025. No evidence was presented to dispute the Department's action.

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 issued SEBT benefits for PW and SD.

IT IS ORDERED, 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

DHHS SPECIAL PROCESSING OFFICE
235 S GRAND AVE
STE 1403
LANSING, MI 48933
**MDHHS-SSPC-CENTRAL-
HEARING@MICHIGAN.GOV**

Via First Class Mail:

Petitioner

[REDACTED]