

Date Mailed: January 15, 2026

Docket No.: 25-037956

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; 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 December 18, 2025. Petitioner appeared and was unrepresented. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS or Department) was represented by Brooke Deja, Assistance Payments Supervisor (APS).

During the hearing proceeding, the Department's Hearing Summary packet was admitted as Exhibit A, pp. 1-40.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly determine Petitioner's eligibility for 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 [REDACTED] 2025, Petitioner applied for SDA and other benefits. Petitioner reported income from Social Security Retirement, Survivor, and Disability Insurance (RSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits that totals [REDACTED] per month. (Exhibit A, pp. 12-22)
2. On September 26, 2025, an interview was completed with Petitioner. Petitioner reported the RSDI and SSI income. (Exhibit A, pp. 23-30)
3. The Department verified that Petitioner receives [REDACTED] in SSI and [REDACTED] in RSDI benefits. (Exhibit A, p. 1)
4. The Department determined that Petitioner's income exceeds the payment standard for SDA of [REDACTED] (Exhibit A, pp. 31-32)
5. On September 26, 2025, a Notice of Case Action was issued to Petitioner denying SDA based on income exceeding program limits. (Exhibit A, pp. 33-40)

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6. On October 16, 2025, Petitioner filed a hearing request contesting the Department's determination. (Exhibit A, pp. 4-11)

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 Disability Assistance (SDA) program is established by the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1-119b. The Department of Health and Human Services (formerly known as the Department of Human Services) administers the SDA program pursuant to 42 CFR 435, MCL 400.10 and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3151-.3180.

The certified group must be in financial need to receive benefits. Need is determined to exist when budgetable income is less than the payment standard established by the department. BEM 515, February 1, 2024, p. 1. The payment standard is the maximum benefit amount that can be received by the certified group. BEM 515, p. 1.

The Department counts the gross benefit amount of RSDI as unearned income. BEM 503, p. 30. The Department counts the gross amount of current SSA-issued SSI as unearned income. BEM 503, July 1, 2025, p. 36. State SSI Payments (SSP) are issued quarterly. Payments are issued in the final month of each quarter. BEM 503, p. 37. The Department counts the corresponding monthly SSP benefit amount as unearned income. BEM 503, p. 37.

The SDA monthly payment standard for an individual is ██████████ RFT 225, December 1, 2013, p. 1.

In this case, Petitioner's application for SDA was denied based on income exceeding program limits. (Exhibit A, pp. 33-40). On ██████████ 2025, Petitioner applied for SDA and other benefits. Petitioner reported income from RSDI and SSI benefits that totals ██████████ per month. (Exhibit A, pp. 12-22). On September 26, 2025, an interview was completed with Petitioner. Petitioner reported the RSDI and SSI income. (Exhibit A, pp. 23-30). The Department verified that Petitioner receives ██████████ in SSI and ██████████ in RSDI benefits. (Exhibit A, p. 1). The Department determined that Petitioner's income exceeds the payment standard for SDA of ██████████ It appears that the Department included ██████████ from SSP benefits. However, Petitioner's income would have exceeded the SDA payment standard based just on the RSDI and SSI benefit income. (Exhibit A, pp. 31-32). Accordingly, on September 26, 2025, a Notice of Case Action was issued to Petitioner denying SDA based on income exceeding program limits. (Exhibit A, pp. 33-40).

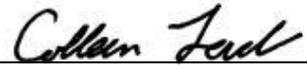
Petitioner explained his needs for the SDA benefits. However, Petitioner did not dispute the RSDI and SSI income. (Exhibit A, p. 5; Petitioner Testimony).

This Administrative Law Judge has no authority to change or make exception to Department policies, which include income limits. Overall, it was uncontested that Petitioner's income exceeds the SDA monthly payment standard of [REDACTED]. Therefore, the denial of Petitioner's application for SDA must be upheld.

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 determined Petitioner's eligibility for SDA.

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



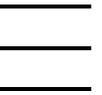
COLLEEN LACK
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE

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:

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Via First Class Mail:

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[REDACTED]
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