



Date Mailed: December 15, 2025
Docket No.: 25-037960
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[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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Docket No.: 25-037960

Case No.: [REDACTED]

Petitioner: [REDACTED] [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 11, 2025. Petitioner appeared and was unrepresented. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS or Department) was represented by Corlette Brown, Hearings Facilitator.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly close Petitioner's Family Independence Program (FIP) case?

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 June [REDACTED] 2025, the Department received Petitioner's application for FIP benefits.
2. On June [REDACTED] 2025, the Department issued a Partnership. Accountability. Training. Hope (PATH) Appointment Notice to Petitioner advising her that she was required to attend PATH within 15 days of the date of the notice and continue with PATH so long as she received FIP benefits. Her orientation was scheduled for July [REDACTED] 2025 at 9:30 AM.
3. Petitioner attended her orientation on July [REDACTED] 2025 as required; however, due to a system error, the PATH worker was unable to register Petitioner in the computer system as required.
4. On July [REDACTED] 2025, Petitioner contacted the PATH worker to advise that the Department worker had corrected the error, but the PATH worker told Petitioner that she had already missed the last day to attend PATH and would need to resubmit her application.

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5. On July █ 2025, the Department issued a Notice of Case Action to Petitioner advising her that her FIP application had been denied for failure to complete the PATH requirements.
 6. On July █ 2025, the Department worker called Petitioner to complete an interview, despite the case having already closed. The worker indicated Petitioner withdrew her application, but Petitioner denies ever having withdrawn the June 2025 application for FIP.
 7. On July █ 2025, the Department received an unsigned hearing request from Petitioner but did not forward it to the Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules (MOAHR) and instead returned it to Petitioner to be signed.
 8. On August 5, 2025, Petitioner contacted the Department to inquire about her hearing request.
 9. On August █ 2025, Petitioner signed the form, put it in one of the Department's prepaid, pre-addressed envelopes, took a picture of it and put it in the mailbox.
 10. The Department never received Petitioner's signed request for hearing.
 11. On September █ 2025, the Department received Petitioner's change report indicating the birth of her daughter.
 12. On September █ 2025, the Department received Petitioner's second application for FIP.
 13. On October 14, 2025, the Department received Petitioner's second request for hearing disputing the Department's denial of her FIP application dated June █ 2025.

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.

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In this case, Petitioner disputes the Department's denial of her FIP application dated June ■ 2025. In this case, Petitioner's FIP benefits were denied for failure to complete the PATH AEP requirements. Pursuant to policy, clients are required to complete the 10-day PATH AEP for approval of the FIP application. BEM 229 (April 2025), p. 1. For the application to be approved, the client must begin the AEP by the last date to attend as indicated on the PATH Appointment Notice, complete the PATH AEP requirements, and continue to participate in PATH after completion of the 10-day AEP. *Id.* Applications are denied if the applicant does not complete all of the above three components of the AEP. *Id.* Neither party disputed that Petitioner attended the orientation and completed her AEP. The only argument of the Department was that there was a error which prevented the PATH worker from properly registering Petitioner in PATH before the end of the 10-day AEP period. Because this was a computer and/or a Department processing error through no fault of Petitioner, the Department erred in denying Petitioner's June ■ 2025 application for FIP.

Furthermore, the Department also denied Petitioner's FIP application because her case worker said she wanted to withdraw her application. Petitioner denies ever wanting to withdraw the application and her testimony is supported by the fact that she submitted a hearing request, followed up on the hearing request, then submitted a change report (which can only be submitted for an active case), a second request for hearing, and then finally a new application once she was told her case was closed permanently. No individual is going to go through such efforts to reopen a case, correct a case, or obtain benefits if they simply did not want the benefits. Therefore, the Department has not shown by a preponderance of the evidence that Petitioner's application was properly denied/closed due to a withdrawal.

Finally, it is notable that Petitioner submitted two hearing requests to the Department, but the Department only forwarded one request to MOAHR. Per policy, MOAHR is the only entity charged with determining whether to accept or deny a hearing request including situations where a hearing request is unsigned. BAM 600 (July 2025), pp. 2, 5, 8. The Department is tasked with accepting the hearing request, completing a hearing summary, and forwarding the request to MOAHR. BAM 600, pp. 6, 9-11, 21-25. The Department's failure to forward Petitioner's first hearing request, whether signed or not, to MOAHR was not in compliance with policy.

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 application for FIP benefits dated June ■ 2025.

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. Reprocess Petitioner's June ■■■ 2025 application;
2. If otherwise eligible, issue FIP supplements to Petitioner for benefits not previously received; and,
3. Notify Petitioner in writing of its decision.



AMANDA MARLER
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://rs.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

WAYNE-GRANDMONT-DHHS
17455 GRAND RIVER AVE
DETROIT, MI 48227

**MDHHS-WAYNE-31-GRANDMONT-
HEARINGS@MICHIGAN.GOV**



Via First Class Mail:

Petitioner

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]