

Date Mailed: January 7, 2026

Docket No.: 25-039327

Case No.: [REDACTED]

Petitioner: [REDACTED]

HEARING DECISION

On November 5, 2025, Petitioner [REDACTED] requested a hearing to dispute a Medical Assistance (MA) determination. As a result, a hearing was scheduled to be held on January 6, 2026, pursuant to MCL 400.9; 42 CFR 431.200 to 431.250; and Mich Admin Code, R 792.11002. Petitioner appeared and represented himself. Respondent, Department of Health and Human Services (Department), had Dawn Quirin, Assistance Payments Worker, and Susie Perez, Assistance Payments Supervisor, appeared as its representative.

A 56-page packet of documents provided by the Department was admitted collectively as the Department's Exhibit A.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly determine Petitioner's 2 children, Makai Brownlee and Nova Brownlee, MA eligibility beginning October 1, 2025?

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 August 26, 2025, Petitioner submitted a Redetermination reporting that Petitioner's household consisted of Petitioner, Petitioner's living together partner, and Petitioner's 2 children.
2. On September 8, 2025, Petitioner applied for MA benefits for Petitioner and Petitioner's 2 children.
3. Petitioner has a household size of 4 consisting of Petitioner, Petitioner's 2 children, and Petitioner's living together partner.
4. Petitioner receives unemployment compensation benefits (UCB) of [REDACTED] per month.
5. Petitioner's living together partner has earned income of [REDACTED] per month.
6. The Department determined that Petitioner's annual household income exceeded the limit for Petitioner's 2 children to be eligible for MA benefits.

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7. On September 15, 2025, the Department mailed a Health Care Coverage Determination Notice to Petitioner to notify Petitioner that Petitioner's 2 children were ineligible for MA benefits beginning October 1, 2025.
 8. On September 17, 2025, the Department mailed a Health Care Coverage Determination Notice to Petitioner to notify Petitioner that Petitioner's 2 children were ineligible for MA benefits beginning October 1, 2025.
 9. On November 5, 2025, Petitioner requested a hearing to dispute the Department's determination that Petitioner's 2 children were ineligible for MA benefits.

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 MA program is established by Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 USC 1396-1396w-5; 42 USC 1315; the Affordable Care Act of 2010, the collective term for the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Pub. L. No. 111-148, as amended by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, Pub. L. No. 111-152; and 42 CFR 430.10-.25. The Department administers the MA program pursuant to 42 CFR 435, MCL 400.10, and MCL 400.105-.112k.

Here, the Department determined that Petitioner's 2 children are ineligible for MA benefits. Petitioner disputes the Department's calculation of Petitioner's household's income as the Department's calculation is unclear.

Persons may qualify for MA under more than one category. Federal law requires them the right to the most beneficial category or the one that results in eligibility with the least amount of excess income or the lowest cost share.

In this case, the Department failed to show how Petitioner's household's income was budgeted prior to the issuance of the September 15, and 17, 2025, Healthcare Coverage Determination Notice. Therefore, the Department has not met its burden of going forward and establishing that Petitioner's 2 children were ineligible for MA beginning October 1, 2025.

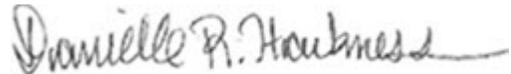
DECISION AND ORDER

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 its policies and the applicable law when it determined Petitioner's 2 children's MA eligibility beginning October 1, 2025.

IT IS **ORDERED** the Department's decision is **REVERSED**.

THE DEPARTMENT IS ORDERED TO INITIATE THE FOLLOWING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH DEPARTMENT POLICY AND CONSISTENT WITH THIS HEARING DECISION, WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE DATE THE ORDER WAS ISSUED:

1. Re-determine Petitioner's 2 children's eligibility for MA benefits beginning October 1, 2025, in accordance with Department policy.



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://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
CASS COUNTY DHHS
325 M-62
CASSOPOLIS, MI 49031
MDHHS-CASS-HEARINGS@MICHIGAN.GOV

Via First Class Mail:

Petitioner
[REDACTED]
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