



Date Mailed: December 15, 2025
Docket No.: 25-041087
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
MI [REDACTED]

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

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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; 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. After due notice, a hearing was held by telephone on December 11, 2025. Petitioner appeared and represented herself. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department) was represented by Normea Banner, Eligibility Specialist, and Corlette Brown, Hearings Facilitator.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly exclude Petitioner's daughter, [REDACTED] (Daughter), from Petitioner's Food Assistance Program (FAP) group?

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, the Department received a completed application for FAP benefits and Medicaid (MA) coverage from Petitioner for herself, her husband, and [REDACTED]-year-old Daughter. Petitioner reported that Daughter is enrolled in college/vocational school and provided a copy of her class schedule. (Exhibit A, pp. 7 – 15).
1. On October 3, 2025, the Department interviewed Petitioner and she reported that Daughter is a part-time college student at [REDACTED] (College) who does not work, receive a [REDACTED], or work under the work-study program. (Exhibit A, pp. 21 – 28).
2. On October 17, 2025, the Department issued a Notice of Case Action (NOCA) that approved Petitioner for monthly FAP benefits of \$382 per month, prorated from September 18, 2025, for a two-person FAP group that included Petitioner and her husband only. The NOCA indicated that Daughter was not an eligible student and excluded her from the FAP group. (Exhibit A, pp. 16 – 17).
3. On November 12, 2025, the Department received a request for hearing from Petitioner that disputed the Department's exclusion of Daughter from the FAP group. (Exhibit A, pp. 3 – 5).

25-041087

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 Food Assistance Program (FAP) [formerly known as the Food Stamp program] 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 (formerly known as the Department of Human Services) administers FAP pursuant to MCL 400.10, the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1-.119b, and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3001-.3011.

In this case, Petitioner submitted a request for hearing to dispute the Department's exclusion of Daughter from Petitioner's FAP group. The Department excluded Daughter from the FAP group due to Daughter being an ineligible student.

Each time the Department evaluates eligibility of a person and household for FAP benefits, it must determine who must be included in the FAP group. BEM 212 (June 2025), p. 1. Parents and their children under the age of 22 who reside together must be included in the same group. BEM 212, p. 1. However, a person in student status who does not meet the criteria set forth in BEM 245 is deemed an ineligible student and is not included in the FAP group. BEM 212, p. 10.

For purposes of FAP, a person is in student status if they are age 18 – 49 and enrolled half-time or more in a) a vocational, trade, business, or technical school that usually requires a high school diploma or GED, or b) at college or university that offers degree programs regardless of whether a diploma is required. BEM 245 (July 2025), pp. 3 – 4. In order for a person in student status to be eligible for FAP benefits, they must meet at least one of the criteria listed in the student status policy, such as maintaining employment for an average of 20 hours per week, be enrolled in the Perkins program, or be working under a state or federally-funded work study program, among other things. BEM 245, pp. 3 – 6.

In this case, the Department testified, and Petitioner confirmed, that Daughter is enrolled at College and is taking at least six credit hours in the current term. Petitioner also confirmed that Daughter does not work, receive financial assistance through the [REDACTED] or a similar qualifying program, or work under a work study program. There was no evidence that Daughter meets any other criteria identified in BEM 245.

Thus, based on the testimony, Daughter is in student status and does not meet the criteria identified in BEM 245 to be eligible for FAP benefits while she is in student status. Therefore, the Department properly determined Daughter is an ineligible student and properly excluded her from the FAP group.

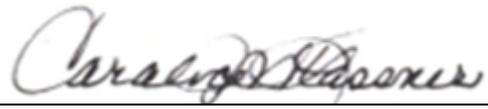
25-041087

Should Daughter's school or work circumstances change in the future, Petitioner may request that the Department reevaluate Petitioner's group and FAP benefits at that time.

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 Daughter is an ineligible student and excluded her from Petitioner's FAP group.

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



CARALYCE M. LASSNER
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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