



Date Mailed: January 26, 2026
Docket No.: 25-044869
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

This is an important legal document. Please have someone translate the document.

هذه وثيقة قانونية مهمة. يرجى أن يكون هناك شخص ما يترجم المستند.

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

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Ky është një dokument ligjor i rëndësishëm. Ju lutem, kini dikë ta përktheni dokumentin.

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Docket No.: 25-044869

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 January 15, 2026. Petitioner appeared and was unrepresented. Petitioner's spouse, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] appeared as a witness. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS or Department) was represented by Michael Butler, Department Manager.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly determine Petitioner's eligibility for Child Development and Care (CDC) 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. Petitioner and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (Spouse) and their two children were ongoing recipients of CDC benefits.
2. Petitioner was employed at [REDACTED] (Employer).
3. On September [REDACTED] 2025, the Department sent Petitioner a verification checklist (VCL) with a due date of October 2, 2025.
4. On September [REDACTED] 2025, Spouse uploaded to the MiBridge's portal a paycheck stub from Employer for September [REDACTED] 2025 and a year-to-date income statement from Employer.
5. On October [REDACTED] 2025, the Department sent Petitioner a Notice of Case Action (NOCA) that informed Petitioner his CDC benefits closed effective September 21, 2025 due to Petitioner's failure to return verification of his income.
6. On October [REDACTED] 2025, the Department received additional paycheck stubs from Petitioner for pay dates July 18, 2025, August 1, 2025, August 15, 2025, September 12, 2025, and October 10, 2025.

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7. On November █ 2025, the Department received Petitioner's application for CDC benefits.
 8. On November █ 2025, the Department sent Petitioner a NOCA that informed Petitioner his CDC benefits closed effective November 2, 2025 ongoing due to gross income exceeding the entry limit for the CDC program. Exhibit A, pp. 6-9.
 9. On December 1, 2025, the Department received Petitioner's request for hearing that disputed the prior closure of his CDC benefits and the denial of the November █ 2025 CDC application. Exhibit A, pp. 3-5.

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 Child Development and Care (CDC) program is established by Titles IVA, IVE and XX of the Social Security Act, 42 USC 601-619, 670-679c, and 1397-1397m-5; the Child Care and Development Block Grant of 1990, PL 101-508, 42 USC 9858 to 9858q; and the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, PL 104-193. The program is implemented by 45 CFR 98.1-99.33. The Department administers the program pursuant to MCL 400.10 and provides services to adults and children pursuant to MCL 400.14(1) and Mich Admin Code, R 400.5001-.5020.

In this case, Petitioner disputed both the closure of his CDC benefits effective September 21, 2025 and the denial of his November █ 2025 CDC application. The Department explained that after Petitioner's CDC case was closed, Petitioner reapplied for CDC benefits and was denied due to his income exceeding the entry income level.

Clients have the right to contest a Department decision affecting eligibility or benefit levels, including termination of program benefits, when the client believes the decision is incorrect. BAM 600 (June 2024), pp. 1, 5. In preparation for a hearing, the Department is required to send to the Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules and the client a hearing summary with a hearing packet that includes, at a minimum, the relevant notice of case action and a copy of all documents the Department intends to offer to support its action. BAM 600, p. 10.

Here, Petitioner's request for hearing disputed two negative actions: the initial closure of his CDC benefits and the denial of his later-submitted CDC application. Although the hearing packet included documentation regarding the denial of Petitioner's subsequent November █ 2025 CDC application, the Department's hearing packet included no documentation of the initial CDC case closure. While the Department testified that

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Petitioner failed to provide verification of his income in response to a VCL and that it sent Petitioner a NOCA on October █ 2025 that closed his CDC benefits, these documents were not provided in the Department's hearing packet to support its position as required by BAM 600. Further, the Department acknowledged that it received several documents from Petitioner, including paycheck stubs and an employer year-to-date statement; however, none of these documents were included in the hearing packet. Because the Department's hearing packet included no documentation related to the initial closure of Petitioner's CDC case, there was insufficient evidence to determine whether the Department's action was made in accordance with policy. Accordingly, the Department failed to meet its burden of establishing that it acted in accordance with policy when it closed Petitioner's CDC case. Because the determination of the first issue is in Petitioner's favor, it is not necessary to consider the denial of the November █ 2025 CDC application.

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 failed to satisfy its burden of showing that it acted in accordance with Department policy when it determined Petitioner's eligibility for CDC benefits.

DECISION AND ORDER

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

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. Reinstate Petitioner's CDC case;
2. Issue supplements to Petitioner for CDC benefits he was eligible to receive but did not from September █ 2025 ongoing; and
3. Notify Petitioner of its decision in writing.



JULIA NORTON
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
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Via First Class Mail:

Petitioner

