



Date Mailed: February 13, 2026

Docket No.: 25-045113

Case No.: [REDACTED]

Petitioner: [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।

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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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 28, 2026. Petitioner appeared and was unrepresented. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS or Department) was represented by Charles Boxer Employment and Training Coordinator and Jennifer Wheeler Family Independence Manager. Department Exhibit 1, pp. 1-42 and Exhibit 2, pp. 1-18 were received and admitted.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly determine Petitioner's Family Independence Program (FIP) and State Disability Assistance (SDA) eligibility?

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 December [REDACTED] 2024, Petitioner applied for SDA.
2. On December [REDACTED] 2024, a Notice of Case Action was sent to Petitioner informing him that his application was denied for failing to cooperate in pursuing other benefits.
3. On October [REDACTED] 2025, Petitioner applied for Family Independence Program (FIP) benefits.
4. On November [REDACTED] 2025, Petitioner submitted a Medical Needs form that stated that he was not able to work his usual occupation for 3-6 months but answered "yes" to the question of whether Petitioner could work at any job. (Ex. 1, pp. 21-22) This form was signed by Petitioner's Nurse Practitioner and Physician.
5. On December [REDACTED] 2025, a Notice of Case Action was sent to Petitioner informing him that he was eligible for FIP effective November 16, 2025. Petitioner's medical records were gathered and sent to the Medical Review Team to determine Petitioner's participation requirements for PATH.

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6. On November ■ 2025, Petitioner requested a hearing raising issues with regard to his PATH requirements.
 7. On November ■ 2025, Petitioner submitted a Medical Needs form that stated that he was not able to work his usual occupation or any job for 12 months. The sections in the form assessing Petitioner's physical limitations were not completed. This form was signed by Petitioner's Nurse Practitioner.
 8. On December 8, 2025, Petitioner requested a hearing raising issues with regard to a December ■ 2024, SDA application.
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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.

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.

Deadlines for Requesting a Hearing

All Programs

The client or AHR has 90 calendar days from the date of the written notice of case action to request a hearing. The request must be received in the local office within the 90 days. BAM 600 (July 2025)

FIP, RCA and SDA

The Family Independence Program (FIP), Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) and State Disability Assistance (SDA) are cash assistance programs designed to help individuals and families become self-sufficient. When an individual applies for cash assistance, Bridges determines group composition and builds an eligibility determination group (EDG) for these programs in the following order: FIP, RCA and SDA. Cash assistance is available to eligibility determination groups who meet all of the non-financial and financial requirements that are needed to determine eligibility and calculate benefit amounts. BEM 210

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SDA

SDA is a cash program for individuals who are not eligible for FIP and are disabled or the caretaker of a disabled person. An SDA eligibility determination group (EDG) consists of either a single adult or adult and spouses living together. BEM 214

In this case, with regard to Petitioner's November █ 2025, request for hearing, Petitioner was approved for FIP and his medical records were gathered and forwarded to the Medical Review Team for consideration regarding his participation level with PATH. At the time Petitioner requested a hearing, the Medical Review Team had not issued a decision with regard to whether Petitioner was work ready or work ready with limitations. At hearing, Petitioner questioned whether he should have been considered for SDA instead of FIP and stated that he believed he may be eligible for SDA as an individual and that his other family members could be eligible for FIP.

BEM 210 clearly states that FIP is considered before SDA. Petitioner was approved for FIP and he was not considered for SDA, that action was consistent with Department policy and was proper and correct. In addition, BEM 214 states that "SDA is a cash program for individuals who are not eligible for FIP". Petitioner is eligible for FIP; therefore, he is not eligible for SDA. BEM 214

It was discussed at hearing that a determination had recently been made by the Medical Review Team that Petitioner was work ready with limitations and he was referred to PATH. That issue was not ripe at the time of hearing because it took place after Petitioner's request for hearing. If a Department action has been taken on Petitioner's case that he disagrees with then he has an opportunity to request another hearing.

In this case, with regard to Petitioner's December █, 2025, request for hearing raising issues with regard to his December █ 2024, application, that request for hearing is untimely and must be dismissed. BAM 600 The undersigned Administrative Law Judge only has jurisdiction to address Department action that took place within 90 days of the request for hearing. Petitioner's request for hearing he submitted on December █ 2025, contesting the Notice of Case Action dated December █ 2024, was approximately 350 days after the Department action and was therefore untimely.

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 FIP eligibility.

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



AARON MCCLINTIC
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.

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Via Electronic Mail:

Respondent
MUSKEGON COUNTY DHHS
2700 BAKER ST
PO BOX 4290
MUSKEGON HEIGHTS, MI 49444
**MDHHS-MUSKEGON-
HEARING@michigan.gov**



Via First Class Mail:

Petitioner

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]