



Date Mailed: January 27, 2026

Docket No.: 25-047004

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.

Date Mailed: January 27, 2026

Docket No.: 25-047004

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 6, 2025. Petitioner appeared and was unrepresented. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS or Department) was represented by Princess Ogundipe, Hearing Facilitator. Department Exhibit 1, pp. 1-38 was received and admitted

ISSUE

Did the Department properly deny Petitioner's Family Independence Program (FIP) application?

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 May [REDACTED] 2025, Petitioner applied for FIP.
2. On June [REDACTED] 2025, an interview was completed.
3. On June [REDACTED] 2025, a Verification Checklist and PATH appointment notice were sent to Petitioner.
4. On December 10, 2025, Petitioner requested hearing raising issues with regard to her not receiving a determination on her May FIP application.
5. On December [REDACTED] 2025, a Benefit Notice was sent to Petitioner informing her that FIP was denied for "failed to attend work participation program orientation". (Ex. 1, pp. 30-31)
6. Petitioner was never issued a Notice of Noncompliance and a triage meeting was never held to allow Petitioner to attempt to establish good cause for failing to participate with PATH.

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.

NONCOMPLIANCE WITH EMPLOYMENT AND/OR SELFSUFFICIENCYRELATED ACTIVITIES

As a condition of eligibility, all WEIs and non-WEIs must work or engage in employment and/or self-sufficiency-related activities. Noncompliance of applicants, recipients, or member adds means doing any of the following without good cause:

- Failing or refusing to: Appear and participate with Partnership. Accountability. Training. Hope. (PATH) or other employment service provider. Complete a Family Automated Screening Tool (FAST), as assigned as the first step in the Family Self-Sufficiency Plan (FSSP) process. Note: The specialist should clear any alerts in Bridges relating to rejected PATH referrals as well as any FAST confirmation information the client has obtained before considering a client noncompliant. Develop a FSSP. Note: A FSSP completion appointment with the client must have been scheduled and the client failed to attend before considering a client noncompliant for FSSP completion. Comply with activities assigned on the FSSP. Provide legitimate documentation of work participation. Appear for a scheduled appointment or meeting related to assigned activities. Participate in employment and/or self-sufficiency-related activities. Participate in required activity. Accept a job referral. Complete a job application. Appear for a job interview (see the exception below).
- Stating orally or in writing a definite intent not to comply with program requirements.
- Threatening, physically abusing or otherwise behaving disruptively toward anyone conducting or participating in an employment and/or self-sufficiency-related activity.
- Refusing employment support services if the refusal prevents participation in an employment and/or self-sufficiency-related activity.

BEM 233A

GOOD CAUSE FOR NONCOMPLIANCE

Good cause is a valid reason for noncompliance with employment and/or self-sufficiency related activities that are based on factors that are beyond the control of the noncompliant person. A claim of good cause must be verified and documented for member adds and recipients. Document the good cause determination in Bridges on the noncooperation screen as well as in case comments. If it is determined during triage the client has good cause, and good cause issues have been resolved, send the client back

25-047004

to PATH. There is no need for a new PATH referral, unless the good cause was determined after the negative action period. BEM 233A

In this case, Petitioner applied for FIP on May ■ 2025. Following an interview, Petitioner was given a PATH appointment notice on June ■ 2025. Petitioner did not attend the PATH appointment. No Notice of Case Action was issued to Petitioner and no triage meeting was scheduled or held. On December 10, 2025, Petitioner requested hearing raising issues regarding her May 2025 application and why it was not processed. On December ■ 2025, a Benefit Notice was issued informing Petitioner that FIP was denied for "failed to attend work participation program orientation". (Ex. 1, pp. 30-31)

Petitioner was never given an opportunity to establish that she had good cause for failing to comply with PATH rules. A triage meeting should have been scheduled and held before the FIP application was denied. BEM 233A

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 failed to satisfy its burden of showing that it acted in accordance with Department policy when it denied Petitioner's FIP application for failing to participate with PATH before a triage meeting was held to give Petitioner an opportunity to establish good cause.

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. Reinstatement of Petitioner's FIP application going back to the date of application.
2. Issue a Notice of Noncompliance and schedule a triage meeting to allow Petitioner to attempt to establish good cause.
3. Award Petitioner FIP benefits if she is found to have good cause for failing to participate with PATH and is otherwise eligible.



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.

Via Electronic Mail:

Respondent

OAKLAND COUNTY DHHS PONTIAC
WOODWARD DIST
51111 WOODWARD AVE 5TH FL
PONTIAC, MI 48342
**MDHHS-OAKLAND-DISTRICT-IV-
HEARINGS@MICHIGAN.GOV**



Via First Class Mail:

Petitioner

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]