



Date Mailed: January 23, 2026
Docket No.: 25-047017
Case No.: [REDACTED]
Petitioner: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] MI [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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Docket No.: 25-047017

Case No.: [REDACTED]

Petitioner: [REDACTED]

HEARING DECISION

On December 15, 2025, Petitioner Salam Boulos requested a hearing to dispute a Food Assistance Program (FAP) determination. As a result, a hearing was scheduled to be held on January 22, 2026, pursuant to MCL 400.9, 7 CFR 273.15, and Mich Admin Code, R 792.11002. Petitioner appeared at the hearing and represented herself. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department) was represented by Jamila Goods, Eligibility Specialist.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly determine Petitioner's FAP benefits beginning January 1, 2026?

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 is an ongoing recipient of FAP benefits.
2. On November 15, 2025, Petitioner submitted a Renew Benefits form and reported receiving Disability income (Supplemental Security Income (SSI)). No other income was reported.
3. On December 1, 2025, Petitioner completed a redetermination interview with the Department and reported receiving SSI of \$ [REDACTED] per month. No other income was reported. Petitioner reported paying rent of \$250.00 per month which includes the cost of utilities. No other shelter expenses were reported.
4. Petitioner has a household size of 1.
5. The Department verified via a State Online Query (SOLQ) report that Petitioner was receiving SSI of \$ [REDACTED] per month but beginning January 1, 2026, Petitioner would be receiving \$ [REDACTED] per month.
6. Petitioner also receives a State Supplementary Payment (SSP) of \$ [REDACTED] per month.

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7. On December 12, 2025, a Notice of Case Action was issued stating that Petitioner's FAP benefit amount would be reduced to \$58.00 per month from January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2027.
 8. On December 15, 2025, Petitioner requested a hearing to dispute the Department's determination.
 9. In Petitioner's December 15, 2025, hearing request Petitioner reported paying property taxes, homeowners insurance, phone, water and utilities.
 10. On December 17, 2025, a Verification Checklist (VCL) was mailed to Petitioner stating, "Please provide verification of your property tax, homeowners insurance and utility expenses that were reported on your hearing request, by the date above." In the "Important Information" section Petitioner was directed to submit verification of Petitioner's home insurance by submitting a current insurance company statement. The proofs were requested by December 29, 2025.
 11. On December 30, 2025, Petitioner provided shelter verifications to the Department which have not been processed as of the date of the hearing.

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 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.

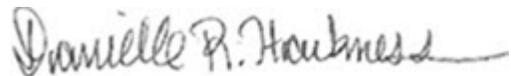
The Department uses countable income to determine eligibility and benefit levels. Income remaining after applying the policy in the income related items is called countable. For FAP purposes, all earned and unearned income available to an applicant or recipient is countable. The Department uses gross income when determining countable income. Gross income is the amount of income before any deductions such as taxes or garnishments, and the amount counted may be more than the client actually receives. BEM 500 (April 1, 2022), p. 4. In calculating the FAP budget, the Department considers the gross benefit amount of Social Security Administration issued SSI as unearned income. BEM 503 (October 1, 2025), p. 36. Michigan SSI benefits include a basic federal benefit and an additional amount paid from state funds. *Id.* Bridges counts the gross benefit amount as unearned income. *Id.*

Here, Petitioner receives unearned income of \$ [REDACTED] per month in SSI and \$ [REDACTED] per month in a SSP. Therefore, Petitioner's unearned income is \$ [REDACTED] (\$ [REDACTED] + \$ [REDACTED]). Petitioner reported no utility expenses on Petitioner's November 15, 2025, renew benefits form or during the December 1, 2025, interview. Therefore, the heat/utility standard was removed from Petitioner's FAP budget. Based on the evidence presented, Petitioner failed to establish that the Department improperly determined Petitioner's eligibility for FAP benefits beginning January 1, 2026.

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 its policies and the applicable law when it determined Petitioner's FAP benefit amount beginning January 1, 2026.

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



**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://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:

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