

## ISSUE

Did the Department properly determine the application date for Petitioner's application for State Emergency Relief (SER)?

## 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, Petitioner applied for SER. (Exhibit A, pp. 7-21)
2. On October 17, 2025, an SER Decision Notice was issued approving SER for heat, water or sewage, and non-heat electricity. (Exhibit A, pp. 22-24)
3. On November 26, 2025, Petitioner filed a hearing request alleging the application date should have been in September 2025. (Exhibit A, pp. 3-6; Petitioner Testimony)

## 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 State Emergency Relief (SER) program is established by the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1-.119b. The SER program is administered by the Department (formerly known as the Department of Human Services) pursuant to MCL 400.10 and Mich Admin Code, R 400.7001-.7049.

Requests for SER become an application on the day the application is received by the Department. For electronic applications submitted through MI Bridges, the application date is determined based on the time and date of submission. Any application submitted after 5:00 pm or on a non-business day will have an application date of the next business day. ERM 103, October 1, 2025, p. 2.

In this case, Petitioner asserts that the application date should have been in September 2025, because that is when he first went to the local Department office with the application intending to file it. Petitioner's testimony regarding the details of what occurred were somewhat inconsistent. However, Petitioner statements acknowledged that he did not turn in the application when he first went to the local Department office on September 23, 2023 at around 4:30 pm when he had a completed SER application with him. Rather, Petitioner had a couple of questions, including asking about the income information that may be needed for his son. Petitioner indicated he was advised what type of information would be preferred or would be helpful. Petitioner also indicated he asked the front desk worker what they would do, and the worker indicated they would wait to file the application

with the more detailed income information. Petitioner's allegations that he was turned away, or that the Department refused to take the application were inconsistent with other parts of Petitioner's testimony. (Petitioner Testimony). Further, Petitioner could have placed the application in the drop box on that date.

Petitioner described the family circumstances at that time. Understandably, with his wife's hospitalization and death, the dates Petitioner intended to go the local Department office were delayed. Petitioner testified that he should have just turned in the application when he first went to the local Department office. (Petitioner Testimony).

Petitioner submitted the application by placing it in the drop box on October 3, 2025 as the doors closed at 5:00 pm. (Petitioner Testimony). October 3, 2025, was a Friday. Accordingly, the application was properly dated as received on Monday **REDACTED**, 2025, pursuant to the ERM 103 policy.

### **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 the application date for Petitioner's application for SER.

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