



**Date Mailed:** February 5, 2026  
**Docket No.:** 25-048232  
**Case No.:** [REDACTED]  
**Petitioner:** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
MI [REDACTED]

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

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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**

On December 10, 2025, Petitioner [REDACTED] requested a hearing to dispute a Family Independence Program (FIP) cash assistance closure. Following Petitioner's hearing request, this matter is before the undersigned Administrative Law Judge pursuant to MCL 400.9, 45 CFR 205.10, and Mich Admin Code, R 792.11002. After due notice, a telephone hearing was held on February 4, 2026. Petitioner appeared at the hearing and represented herself. The Department of Health and Human Services (Department) was represented by Caleb Nygren, Hearing Facilitator.

A 46-page packet of documents provided by the Department was admitted collectively as the Department's Exhibit A.

### **ISSUE**

Did the Department properly close Petitioner's FIP cash assistance 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. On [REDACTED] 2025, Petitioner was approved for FIP cash assistance of \$ [REDACTED] per month.
2. On July 9, 2025, a medical statement was received by the Department stating that Petitioner will be unable to work from July 7, 2025, to October 20, 2025.
3. The MichiganWorks! Association (MWA) approved a medical deferral for Petitioner from July 7, 2025, to October 20, 2025.
4. On September 24, 2025, the Department mailed a Partnership Accountability Training Hope (PATH) Appointment Notice to Petitioner. The notice informed Petitioner that Petitioner was required to attend PATH by appearing at the MWA Genesee County office, and it informed Petitioner that Petitioner was scheduled to attend PATH on October 2, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. The notice also informed Petitioner that Petitioner had 15 days from the date of the notice to attend PATH, and it informed Petitioner that may lose Petitioner's FIP benefits if Petitioner did not attend PATH or call to reschedule her appointment within 15 days from the date of the notice.

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5. On October 2, 2025, a PATH orientation link and instructions were emailed to Petitioner, and a PATH appointment was scheduled on October 7, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. in-person at the MWA [REDACTED].
  6. On October 6, 2025, Petitioner's case manager informed Petitioner that Petitioner was required to complete the steps in the PATH orientation link prior to the in-person appointment on October 7, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.
  7. On October 7, 2025, Petitioner attended Petitioner's PATH appointment at the MWA [REDACTED].
  8. On October 7, 2025, Petitioner requested that Petitioner's medical deferment be continued due to Petitioner's child's medical challenges and a personal issue. Petitioner also reported that Petitioner was attending the [REDACTED] on a full-time basis.
  9. No documentation was submitted by Petitioner to extend Petitioner's medical deferment.
  10. As a result, Petitioner was assigned barrier resolution activities for the week. Petitioner was required to obtain medical documents, a class schedule and complete the IWorkzone report.
  11. On October 17, 2025, at 9:15 a.m., an intake appointment was scheduled at the MWA [REDACTED].
  12. On October 20, 2025, Petitioner called to reschedule the October 17, 2025, intake appointment.
  13. On October 21, 2025, Petitioner submitted to the Department Petitioner's class schedule. Subsequently, Petitioner was directed to submit a progress report from Petitioner's academic advisor, and another appointment was scheduled for October 27, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. via telephone.
  14. On October 29, 2025, Petitioner's case manager left a voicemail for Petitioner requesting Petitioner's progress report.
  15. Petitioner did not submit Petitioner's progress report.
  16. On November 6, 2025, an email was sent to Petitioner advising Petitioner to attend an in-person reengagement appointment on November 10, 2025, at 8:30 a.m.
  17. Petitioner did not attend the November 10, 2025, reengagement appointment.
  18. On November 10, 2025, a Notice of Noncompliance was mailed to Petitioner to notify Petitioner that a triage appointment was scheduled for November 19, 2025,

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at 9:00 a.m., at the [REDACTED] after Petitioner did not participate in a required activity in October and did not attend the November 10, 2025, reengagement appointment.

19. On [REDACTED] 2025, Petitioner applied for FIP cash assistance benefits.
20. On November 21, 2025, the Department issued a Notice of Case Action to Petitioner closing Petitioner's FIP cash assistance because Petitioner failed to complete the assigned PATH activity, and did not participate in the November 10, 2025, re-engagement appointment.
21. On December 10, 2025, Petitioner requested a hearing to dispute Petitioner's FIP cash assistance closure.

### **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 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.

Federal and state laws require each work eligible individual (WEI) in the FIP group to participate in PATH or other employment-related activity unless temporarily deferred or engaged in activities that meet participation requirements. BEM 230A (October 1, 2022), p. 1. These clients must participate in employment and/or self-sufficiency related activities to increase their employability and obtain employment. *Id.* An individual who fails without good cause to participate must be penalized. BEM 233A (January 1, 2020), p. 1. 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 individual. *Id.* at 4. The penalty for non-compliance without good cause is FIP closure. *Id.* at 8.

Petitioner was required to participate in PATH. Petitioner became non-compliant when Petitioner failed to submit Petitioner's progress report and attend the November 10, 2025, re-engagement appointment. At the hearing, Petitioner acknowledged that Petitioner did not submit the requested progress report or attend the November 10, 2025, re-engagement appointment due to Petitioner's medical challenges. However, Petitioner's medical deferment ended on October 20, 2025, and Petitioner provided no further documentation to extend the deferment and failed to

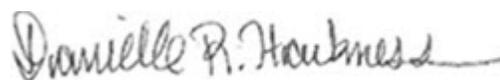
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comply with the requested activities. Since Petitioner was non-compliant, the Department properly closed Petitioner's FIP cash assistance benefits.

**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 closed Petitioner's FIP cash assistance benefits.

IT IS ORDERED 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](mailto: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

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**Via Electronic Mail:**

**Respondent**

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**MDHHS-GENESEE-UNIONST-  
HEARINGS@MICHIGAN.GOV**

**Via First Class Mail:**

**Petitioner**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] MI [REDACTED]