



**Date Mailed:** February 20, 2026  
**Docket No.:** 25-048261  
**Case No.:** [REDACTED]  
**Petitioner:** [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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এটি একটি গুরুত্বপূর্ণ আইনি ডকুমেন্ট। দয়া করে কেউ দস্তাবেজ অনুবাদ করুন।

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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 February 18, 2026. Petitioner appeared and was unrepresented. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS or Department) was represented by Sunshine Simonson, Eligibility Specialist.

### **ISSUE**

Did the Department properly determine Petitioner's eligibility for State Disability Assistance (SDA)?

### **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 October [REDACTED] 2025, the Department received Petitioner's SDA application.
2. Petitioner is [REDACTED] years old.
3. On November [REDACTED] 2025, the Department sent Petitioner a Notice of Case Action (NOCA) that denied Petitioner's SDA application effective November 1, 2025 ongoing. Exhibit A, pp. 8-11.
4. On December 1, 2025, the Department received Petitioner's request for hearing that disputed the denial of SDA. Exhibit A, pp. 3-5.
5. On December [REDACTED] 2025, the Department reprocessed Petitioner's SDA application.
6. On December [REDACTED] 2025, the Department sent Petitioner a Medical Determination Verification Checklist (VCL). The VCL requested the Authorization to Release Protected Health Information and proof of pending Social Security Administration (SSA) application or scheduled appointment to apply for benefits. Exhibit A, pp. 21-26.
7. On December [REDACTED] 2025, the Department sent Petitioner a Quick Note that informed Petitioner her SDA application was pending a signature on the Authorized Release

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form and verification of an application or appeal with Social Security. Exhibit A, p. 20.

8. On January █ 2026, the Department forwarded Petitioner's SDA application to the Disability Determination Services (DDS) for review.
9. As of February █ 2026, Petitioner's SDA application was pending with DDS.

### **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 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.

In this case, Petitioner disputed the November █ 2025 denial of her SDA application. The Department explained that the denial was in error and the Department reprocessed the SDA application on December █ 2025. As of the date of the hearing, the SDA application was pending with DDS for a disability determination.

To receive SDA, a person must be disabled, caring for a disabled person, or age 65 or older. BEM 261 (April 2017), p. 1. A person is disabled for SDA purposes if he or she meets any of the following criteria: receives other specified disability-related benefits or services; resides in a qualified Special Living Arrangement (SLA) facility; is certified as unable to work due to mental or physical disability for at least 90 days from the onset of the disability; or is diagnosed as having Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS). BEM 261, pp. 1-2. When the person does not meet one of the criteria under other benefits or services or special living arrangements, the Department is to follow the instructions for Medical Determination and Disability Determination Service (DDS). The DDS will gather and review the medical evidence and either certify or deny the disability claim based on the medical evidence. BEM 261, p. 4; BAM 815 (April 2018), p. 1.

Here, the Department acknowledged that its initial denial of Petitioner's SDA application was in error and it subsequently reprocessed her application. There was no evidence presented that Petitioner is receiving other specified disability-related benefits, resides in a qualified SLA facility, is certified as unable to work due to mental or physical disability, or was diagnosed as having AIDS. On January █ 2026, the Department sought a medical determination of disability from DDS pursuant to policy. As of the date

of the hearing, Petitioner's SDA application was pending a disability determination and had not been denied.

The authority of an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) is limited to the following: denials of an application and/or supplemental payments; reductions in the amount of program benefits or service; suspensions or terminations of program benefits or service; restrictions under which benefits or services are provided; and delays of any action beyond standards of promptness. BAM 600 (July 2025) p. 5. Because the SDA application has not been denied, Petitioner has failed to show that she has a hearable issue regarding SDA at this time.

The ALJ does not have jurisdiction to decide Petitioner's SDA issue. Therefore, Petitioner's hearing request is **DISMISSED** for lack of jurisdiction.

### **DECISION AND ORDER**

Accordingly, Petitioner's hearing request regarding **SDA** is **DISMISSED** based on lack of jurisdiction.



**JULIA NORTON**  
**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](https://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](mailto:MOAHR-BSD-Support@michigan.gov), **OR**
- by fax at (517) 763-0155, **OR**
- by mail addressed to

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Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules  
Rehearing/Reconsideration Request  
P.O. Box 30639  
Lansing Michigan 48909-8139

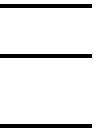


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**Via Electronic Mail:**

**Respondent**

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**Via First Class Mail:**

**Petitioner**

[REDACTED]  
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[REDACTED]