



**Date Mailed:** February 9, 2026  
**Docket No.:** 25-048498  
**Case No.:** [REDACTED]  
**Petitioner:** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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

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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 4, 2026. Petitioner appeared and was unrepresented. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS or Department) was represented by Shana Powell, Eligibility Specialist.

### **ISSUE**

Did the Department properly close Petitioner's Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefits and Medicaid (MA) coverage for failing to return income verification?

### **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 or about September [REDACTED] 2025, the Department sent Petitioner a New Hire Client Notice (New Hire Notice) for [REDACTED] ([REDACTED])
2. On October [REDACTED] 2025, Petitioner returned the New Hire Notice for [REDACTED] to the Greendale office and indicated she did not work for [REDACTED]
3. On October [REDACTED] 2025, Petitioner uploaded employment information and check stubs from [REDACTED] to the MiBridges portal.
4. On October [REDACTED] 2025, the Department received the [REDACTED] documentation.
5. On December [REDACTED] 2025, the Department sent Petitioner another New Hire Notice for [REDACTED] with a due date of December 15, 2025. Exhibit A, pp. 16-18.
6. On December [REDACTED] 2025, the Department sent Petitioner a Notice of Case Action (NOCA) that informed Petitioner she was no longer eligible for FAP benefits as of January 1, 2026 ongoing because she had failed to verify requested information. Exhibit A, pp. 7-11.

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7. On December █ 2025, the Department sent Petitioner a Health Care Coverage Determination Notice (HCCDN) that informed Petitioner she and █ (█ and █) were no longer eligible for MA coverage as of January 1, 2026 ongoing. Exhibit A, pp. 12-15.
  8. On December 26, 2025, the Department received Petitioner's request for hearing disputing the closure of her FAP and MA. Exhibit A, pp. 3-5.

### **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 Food Assistance Program (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 Medical Assistance (MA) program is established by Title XIX of the Social Security Act, 42 USC 1396-1396w-5; 42 USC 1315; the Affordable Care Act of 2010, the collective term for the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Pub. L. No. 111-148, as amended by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, Pub. L. No. 111-152; and 42 CFR 430.10-.25. The Department (formerly known as the Department of Human Services) administers the MA program pursuant to 42 CFR 435, MCL 400.10, and MCL 400.105-.112k.

In this case, Petitioner disputed the closure of her FAP and MA cases for failing to return verification in response to the December 5, 2025 New Hire Notice for █. The Department explained both FAP and MA were closed because the Addus verification was not returned to the Department.

For MA, it is a best practice to resolve information obtained from a state new hires report within 21 calendar days from the date the match is reported to the specialist. BAM 807(June 2025), p. 1. For FAP, if the date of the match is less than 60 days from the processing date, the state new hires match must be addressed. If the date of the match is 60 days or more from the processing date, the state new hires match is held and addressed at the next mid-certification or redetermination (whichever comes first). For FAP simplified reporters (SRs), the state new hires match is held and addressed at the next semiannual or redetermination (whichever comes first). BAM 807, pp. 1-2. The Department is required to contact the client immediately if the employment has not been

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previously reported and request verification of income by generating the new hire notice. BAM 807, pp. 1-2. If verifications are not returned by the tenth day, case action will need to be initiated to close the case in Bridges. BAM 807, p. 3.

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Although the Department closed Petitioner's FAP and MA cases for failing to return verification of income in response to a December █ 2025 █ New Hire Notice, the Department initially issued New Hire Notices for █ and █ in September 2025. Petitioner credibly testified that she received the notices in September 2025 and that she returned the verification for Addus on October 5, 2025 to the Department in person and returned the verification for █ on October █ 2025 to the Department online. Petitioner personally returned the █ verification to the Greyscale location and recalled handing it to a young lady seated at the last window. Petitioner testified that she reported to the Department that she did not work at █. The Department reviewed its electronic case file and acknowledged receipt of the █ verification but testified that it did not receive any documentation regarding █. Despite purportedly not receiving the █ verification, the Department took no case action. Subsequently, the Department issued another New Hire Notice for █ on December █ 2025 and then closed Petitioner's FAP and MA when the verification was not returned. Petitioner testified she never received the December █ 2025 New Hire Notice.

Based on the evidence presented, New Hire Notices were issued for █ in September 2025 and December 2025. Conflicting testimony of equal weight and credibility was presented by the parties as to whether Petitioner returned the September 2025 █ verification. While the Department testified it received nothing, Petitioner credibly testified that she returned the September 2025 █ verification on October 5, 2025 in person to the Greyscale office. Because the evidence presented was of equal weight and credibility, the Department did not meet its initial burden of establishing that it acted in accordance with Department policy regarding the September 2025 █ New Hire Notice. Further, because the Department did not establish that Petitioner failed to return the September 2025 █ verification, the Department did not establish that it properly issued another New Hire Notice for █ on December █ 2025.

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**DECISION AND ORDER**

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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 closed Petitioner's FAP and MA cases for failing to return income verification in response to a New Hire Notice.

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 MA coverage for Petitioner, ■■■ and ■■■ as of January 1, 2026 ongoing;
2. Reinstatement Petitioner's FAP benefits as of January 1, 2026 ongoing and supplement Petitioner for FAP benefits she was eligible to receive from January 1, 2026 ongoing; and
3. Notify Petitioner of its decisions in writing.



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**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://irs.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

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**  
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**Via First Class Mail:**

**Petitioner**

