

ISSUE

The issue is whether MDHHS properly terminated Petitioner's Food Assistance Program (FAP) eligibility.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The administrative law judge, based on the competent, material, and substantial evidence on the whole record, finds as material fact:

1. As of November 2025, Petitioner was an ongoing recipient of FAP benefits with a benefit period certified through December 2025.
1. On November 17, 2025, Petitioner submitted to MDHHS redetermination documents reporting ongoing wages from Rainbow USA (hereinafter, "Employer").
2. On December 5, 2025, MDHHS mailed Petitioner a Verification Checklist (VCL) requesting by December 15, 2025, verification of the last 30 days of wages.
3. On December 11, 2025, MDHHS received from Petitioner a Verification of Employment stating that Petitioner was paid weekly and listing gross wages of REDACTED paid to Petitioner on December 4, 2025.
4. On January 8, 2026, MDHHS received from Petitioner a direct deposit slip dated December 31, 2025.
5. On January 12, 2026, MDHHS terminated Petitioner's FAP eligibility beginning January 2026 due to Petitioner's failure to verify wages.
6. As of January 12, 2026, Petitioner did not return to MDHHS verification of 30 days of gross wages.
7. On January 22, 2026, Petitioner requested a hearing to dispute the termination of FAP benefits.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The FAP [formerly known as the Food Stamp program] is funded under the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) established by the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended, 7 USC 2011 to 7 USC 2036d. It is implemented by the federal regulations contained in 7 CFR 273. MDHHS administers the FAP pursuant to MCL 400.10 of the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1 *et seq.*, and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3001 to R 400.3031. FAP policies are contained in the Bridges Administrative Manual (BAM), Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM), and Reference Tables Manual (RFT).

Petitioner requested a hearing to dispute a termination of FAP benefits. Exhibit A, pp. 3-5. A Notice of Case Action dated January 12, 2026, stated that Petitioner's FAP eligibility ended January 2026 due to Petitioner's alleged failure to return wage verifications. Exhibit A, pp. 17-21. MDHHS testified that Petitioner's alleged failure was part of a FAP benefit redetermination.

For all programs, a complete redetermination is required at least every 12 months. BAM 210 (April 2025) p. 3. Bridges, the MDHHS database, automatically sends a DHS-1010, Redetermination, to the client on the fourth day of the month before the redetermination form is due. *Id.*, p. 8. FAP benefits stop at the end of the benefit period unless the redetermination process is completed and a new benefit period is certified. *Id.*, p. 3. Redetermination verifications must be provided by the end of the current benefit period or within 10 days after they are requested, whichever allows more time. *Id.*, p. 17. A VCL should be sent after the redetermination interview for any missing verifications allowing 10 days for their return. *Id.*

For FAP benefits, MDHHS generally counts gross wages.¹ BEM 501 (October 2025) p. 7. Wages must be verified at FAP redetermination. *Id.*, p. 10. For non-child support income, such as wages, MDHHS is to use past income to prospect income for the future unless changes are expected. BEM 505 (June 2025) p. 6. MDHHS is to use income from the past 30 days if it appears to accurately reflect what is expected to be received in the benefit month. *Id.*

Petitioner timely returned to MDHHS a redetermination form on November 17, 2025, and reported ongoing wages for herself. Exhibit A, pp. 6-10. MDHHS testified that it did not receive income verifications which prompted sending Petitioner a VCL on December 5, 2025. The VCL stated that Petitioner was to return 30 days of income verification by December 15, 2025. Exhibit A, pp. 14-16.

MDHHS testified that it received a Verification of Employment on December 11, 2025. MDHHS contended the Verification of Employment was not acceptable because it listed only one week of gross earnings of REDACTED on December 4, 2025. MDHHS acknowledged receiving a direct deposit slip from Petitioner on January 8, 2026, verifying a deposit dated December 31, 2025, which was presumably related to Petitioner's wages. MDHHS contended that Petitioner's submissions failed to verify 30 days of income which justified the termination of FAP benefits beginning January 2026.

Petitioner testified she was interviewed by a MDHHS specialist on December 5, 2025, and was told "everything is fine" concerning her redetermination. Based on the specialist's statement, Petitioner testified she expected her redetermination to be processed. Petitioner also testified that she was surprised to receive a Verification of Employment and VCL shortly thereafter. Petitioner additionally testified that she reapplied for FAP

¹ Exceptions to using gross wages include the following: earned income tax credits, flexible benefits, striker earnings, student disregards, and census worker earnings. BEM 501 (July 2017), p. 7. None of these exceptions apply to the present case.

benefits in REDACTED 2026 and submitted to MDHHS multiple wage documents on February 2, 2026.

Whether a MDHHS specialist wrongly implied that further documents were needed was corrected by MDHHS sending Petitioner a VCL. The evidence established that MDHHS properly requested wage verification and that Petitioner received proper notice of the need to verify 30 days of wages. The evidence further established that MDHHS did not receive verification of 30 days of wages. The week of gross wages listed on the Verification of Employment is acceptable verification of seven days of wages. Petitioner's direct deposit slip would not be acceptable wage verification because it would not verify gross wages.² However, even if the direct deposit receipt was acceptable verification, Petitioner is left with only two weeks of wage verification. Petitioner's submission of wage documents on February 2, 2026 would be too late to reactivate the closed FAP benefit case; however, Petitioner should expect the documents to be evaluated with the FAP benefit application submission in REDACTED 2026. Given the evidence, MDHHS properly terminated Petitioner's FAP eligibility beginning January 2026.

DECISION AND ORDER

The administrative law judge, based upon the above findings of fact and conclusions of law, finds that MDHHS properly terminated Petitioner's FAP eligibility beginning January 2026. The actions taken by MDHHS are **AFFIRMED**

² Acceptable verifications of wages do not include bank statements or bank documents. BEM 501 (October 2025) pp. 11-12.