



Date Mailed: March 10, 2026
Docket No.: 26-004410
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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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

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 March 4, 2026. Petitioner appeared and was unrepresented. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS or Department) was represented by Emily Williamson, Hearing Facilitator. Department Exhibit 1, pp. 1-15 was received and admitted.

ISSUE

Did the Department properly determine Petitioner's Food Assistance Program (FAP) benefit amount?

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 January [REDACTED] 2026, a Notice of Case Action was sent to Petitioner informing him that his FAP benefits would be reduced to \$[REDACTED] effective February 1, 2026, due to a cost of living adjustment.
2. On February 5, 2026, Petitioner requested a hearing contesting the amount of his FAP benefit and raising issues with regard to his expense deductions.
3. Petitioner's household receives \$[REDACTED] in unearned income from social security per month.
4. Petitioner has housing expense of \$[REDACTED] per month and he is responsible for utilities.

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.

Food Assistance Program (FAP) Only

Bridges use certain expenses to determine net income for FAP eligibility and benefit levels. • For groups with no senior/disabled/disabled veteran (SDV) member, Bridges uses the following: Dependent care expense. Excess shelter up to the maximum in Reference Tables Manual (RFT) 255. Court ordered child support and arrearages paid to non FAP group members. • For groups with one or more SDV member, Bridges uses the following: see Bridges Eligibility Manual (BEM) 550, FAP Income Budgeting: Dependent care expense. Excess shelter. Court ordered child support and arrearages paid to nongroup members. Medical expenses for the SDV member(s) that exceed \$35. BEM 554

In this case, Petitioner's household receives \$████ in unearned income from social security per month. Petitioner has housing expenses of \$████ per month and he is responsible for utilities. After subtracting the standard deduction of \$209 and \$463 for the excess shelter deduction, Petitioner has \$████ net income. A household of 2 with \$████ in net income is entitled to \$288 per month in FAP benefits. This was the amount determined by the Department and it was proper and correct and consistent with Department policy.

Petitioner testified at hearing that the income and expense information used by the Department in determining his FAP benefit amount were correct. The issue that Petitioner was disputing was whether his car expenses and his home maintenance expenses should have been taken into consideration when calculating his FAP benefit amount. Policy does not allow for car expenses and home maintenance expenses to be taken into consideration when determining a recipient's FAP benefit amount. BEM 554

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 Petitioner's FAP benefit amount.

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



AARON MCCLINTIC
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://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

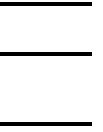
- by email to MOAHR-BSD-Support@michigan.gov, **OR**
- by fax at (517) 763-0155, **OR**
- by mail addressed to
Michigan Office of Administrative Hearings and Rules
Rehearing/Reconsideration Request
P.O. Box 30639
Lansing Michigan 48909-8139

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.

26-004410

Via Electronic Mail:

Respondent
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Via First Class Mail:

Petitioner

