

ISSUE

Did the Department properly deny Petitioner's request for FIP cash assistance?

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 March 20, 2024; December 27, 2024; and October 1, 2025, Petitioner received a noncompliance for failing to participate in employment services.
2. On REDACTED 2026, Petitioner applied for FIP cash assistance for Petitioner's daughter. Petitioner reported Petitioner and Petitioner's daughter as household members.
3. On January 8, 2026, an Appointment Notice was mailed to Petitioner for an application interview to be held on January 15, 2026, between 8:45 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
4. On January 9, 2026, the Department mailed a Notice of Case Action to Petitioner to notify Petitioner that Petitioner's request for FIP cash assistance was denied beginning February 1, 2026. The notice stated,

For at least the third time, you or a group member failed to participate in employment and/or self-sufficiency-related activities or you quit a job, were fired, or reduced your hours of employment without good cause. The group is no longer eligible for FIP benefits.

5. On January 12, 2026, Petitioner submitted a Report Changes form reporting that Petitioner's employment at Marshalls ended on January 8, 2026,
6. On January 12, 2026, an Appointment Notice was mailed to Petitioner for an application interview to be held on January 20, 2026, between 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.
7. On January 13, 2026, the Department mailed a Notice of Case Action to Petitioner to notify Petitioner that Petitioner's request for FIP cash assistance was denied beginning February 1, 2026. The notice stated,

For at least the third time, you or a group member failed to participate in employment and/or self-sufficiency-related activities or you quit a job, were fired, or reduced your hours of employment without good cause. The group is no longer eligible for FIP benefits.

8. On REDACTED 2026, Petitioner applied for FIP cash assistance for Petitioner and Petitioner's daughter. Petitioner reported Petitioner and Petitioner's daughter as household members.
9. On January 23, 2026, an Appointment Notice was mailed to Petitioner for an application interview to be held on January 30, 2026, between 10:15 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.
10. On January 30, 2026, the Department mailed a Notice of Case Action to Petitioner to notify Petitioner that Petitioner's request for FIP cash assistance was denied beginning February 16, 2026. The notice stated,

For at least the third time, you or a group member failed to participate in employment and/or self-sufficiency-related activities or you quit a job, were fired, or reduced your hours of employment without good cause. The group is no longer eligible for FIP benefits.
11. On January 30, 2026, Petitioner requested a hearing to dispute the Department's denial.

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 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.

In this case, the Department denied Petitioner's request for FIP cash assistance because the Department determined that Petitioner had received 3 episodes of noncompliance prior to Petitioner's REDACTED 2026, FIP cash assistance applications. Petitioner is disputing the denial.

MDHHS requires clients to participate in employment and self-sufficiency-related activities and to accept employment when offered. The focus is to assist clients in removing barriers so they can participate in activities which lead to self-sufficiency. However, there are consequences for a client who refuses to participate without good cause. BEM 223A (October 1, 2022), p. 1.

A Work Eligible Individual (WEI) and non-WEIs (except ineligible grantees, clients deferred for lack of child care, and disqualified non-citizens), see BEM 228, who fails,

without good cause, to participate in employment or self-sufficiency-related activities, must be penalized. Depending on the case situation, penalties include the following:

- Delay in eligibility at application.
- Ineligibility (denial or termination of FIP with no minimum penalty period).
- Case closure for a minimum of three months for the first episode of noncompliance, six months for the second episode of noncompliance and lifetime closure for the third episode of noncompliance.

Id.

Noncompliance by a WEI while the application is pending results in group ineligibility. A WEI applicant who refused employment without good cause, within 30 days prior to the date of application or while the application is pending, must have benefits delayed; see Benefit Delay for Refusing Employment in this item. *Id.* at 7.

Petitioner did not present any evidence to establish that the noncompliance penalty does not apply to Petitioner's group. Because Petitioner had 3 episodes of noncompliance prior to Petitioner's REDACTED 2026, FIP cash assistance applications the Department properly denied Petitioner's request because Petitioner had received more 3 episodes of noncompliance at the time that Petitioner applied for FIP cash assistance from the Department.

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 did act in accordance with its policies and the applicable law when the Department denied Petitioner's request for FIP cash assistance.

IT IS ORDERED the Department's decision is **AFFIRMED**.