

ISSUES

Did the Department properly determine Petitioner's eligibility for Food Assistance Program (FAP), Medical Assistance (MA), and State Emergency Relief (SER) benefits?

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 REDACTED 2026, Petitioner applied for FAP and SER benefits.
2. Petitioner has a household size of 2.
3. Petitioner receives REDACTED per month in Retirement, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (RSDI) income and Petitioner's spouse receives REDACTED per month in RSDI income.
4. On February 10, 2026, the Department mailed a Healthcare Coverage Determination Notice to Petitioner to notify Petitioner that Petitioner and Petitioner's spouse are ineligible for full coverage MA through the Medicaid Savings Program (MSP) due to Petitioner's household's income exceeding the income limit
5. On February 13, 2026, Petitioner requested a hearing to dispute the Department's determination.

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).

FAP, SDA

The FAP 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 administers FAP pursuant to MCL 400.10, the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1-.119b, and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3001-.3011.

The SDA program is established by the Social Welfare Act, MCL 400.1-.119b. MDHHS administers the SDA program pursuant to 42 CFR 435, MCL 400.10 and Mich Admin Code, R 400.3151-.3180. At the hearing, Petitioner indicated that Petitioner did not wish to proceed with a hearing regarding FAP and SDA benefits. Therefore, Petitioner's request for hearing concerning FAP and SDA benefits is **DISMISSED**.

MA

The 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 administers the MA program pursuant to 42 CFR 435, MCL 400.10, and MCL 400.105-.112k.

Here, the Department determined that Petitioner and Petitioner spouse are ineligible for full coverage MA benefits through the MSP due to Petitioner's household's income exceeding the income limit. Petitioner disputes the Department's calculation of Petitioner's household's income as the Department's calculation is unclear. Persons may qualify for MA under more than one category. Federal law requires them the right to the most beneficial category or the one that results in eligibility with the least amount of excess income or the lowest cost share.

In this case, the Department failed to show how Petitioner's household's income was budgeted prior to the issuance of the February 10, 2025, Healthcare Coverage Determination Notice. Therefore, the Department has not met its burden of going forward and establishing that Petitioner and Petitioner's spouse are ineligible for full coverage MA benefits through the MSP.

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 as follows:

1. Petitioner's request for hearing concerning FAP and SDA benefits is **DISMISSED** pursuant to Petitioner's withdrawal.
2. The Department did not act in accordance with its policies and the applicable law when it determined that Petitioner and Petitioner's spouse are ineligible for full coverage MA benefits through the MSP.

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

THE DEPARTMENT IS ORDERED TO INITIATE THE FOLLOWING, IN ACCORDANCE WITH DEPARTMENT POLICY AND CONSISTENT WITH THIS HEARING DECISION, WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE DATE THE ORDER WAS ISSUED:

1. Re-determine Petitioner's and Petitioner's spouse's eligibility for MA benefits beginning October 1, 2025, in accordance with Department policy.