

ISSUE

Did the Department properly deny Petitioner's application for FAP 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 2025, Petitioner applied for FAP benefits.
2. On December 11, 2025, the Department mailed an appointment notice to Petitioner to notify Petitioner that the Department would call him sometime between 1:45 p.m. and 3:45 p.m. on December 26, 2025, to discuss his application.
3. On December 26, 2025, the Department attempted to call Petitioner at 2:05 p.m. and 2:09 p.m. Petitioner did not answer the calls because Petitioner's phone screened the calls as spam.
4. On December 26, 2025, the Department mailed a notice of missed appointment to Petitioner to notify Petitioner that he needed to contact the Department by January 10, 2026, to reschedule his missed appointment.
5. Petitioner did not contact the Department by January 10, 2026, to reschedule his missed appointment, so the Department denied Petitioner's application for FAP benefits.
6. Petitioner requested a hearing to dispute the Department's decision.

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) 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.

In this case, the Department denied Petitioner's application for FAP benefits because Petitioner did not participate in a required interview. Petitioner is disputing the Department's decision. Thus, the issue is whether the Department properly denied Petitioner's application for FAP benefits.

When a client applies for FAP benefits, the client is required to participate in an interview. BAM 115 (October 1, 2025), pp. 17-19. When a client fails to participate in an interview and fails to reschedule the interview, the Department must deny the client's application. *Id.* at 23. Based on the evidence presented, Petitioner did not participate in an interview or reschedule the interview, so the Department properly denied Petitioner's application for FAP benefits. Petitioner may reapply.

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 its policies and the applicable law when it denied Petitioner's application for FAP benefits.

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