



FH  
[REDACTED]

**STATE OF WISCONSIN**  
**Division of Hearings and Appeals**

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In the Matter of

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

DECISION

FOO/148313

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**PRELIMINARY RECITALS**

Pursuant to a petition filed March 25, 2013, under Wis. Admin. Code § HA 3.03(1), to review a decision by the Walworth County Department of Human Services in regard to FoodShare benefits (FS), a hearing was held on April 15, 2013, at Elkhorn, Wisconsin.

The issue for determination is whether the Department erred in reducing his FoodShare from \$25 to \$16 effective April 1, 2013.

There appeared at that time and place the following persons:

**PARTIES IN INTEREST:**

Petitioner:

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Respondent:

Department of Health Services  
1 West Wilson Street  
Madison, Wisconsin 53703

By: Mia Anderson

Walworth County Department of Human Services  
W4051 County Rd NN  
Elkhorn, WI 53121-1006

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:**

John P. Tedesco  
Division of Hearings and Appeals

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. Petitioner (CARES # [REDACTED]) is a resident of Walworth County.
2. In March 2013, petitioner underwent a review for an MA program. At that time, he reported that his income (veteran's benefits) had increased from \$1,337 to \$1,360 per month. His court ordered obligation for child support had also decreased from \$250 to \$173.

3. The Department agency recalculated petitioner's FS based on this new information and his allotment was reduced to 16 dollars.
4. Petitioner filed a timely appeal.

### **DISCUSSION**

In determining the amount of FS to be issued each month, the county must budget all of the recipient's nonexempt income. 7 C.F.R. §273.9(b). From that income, certain deductions are allowed. The deductions include a standard deduction, which was, at the relevant time of the agency action, \$142 per month for a three person household. 7 C.F.R. §273.9(d)(1); FoodShare Wisconsin Handbook, Appendix 4.6.2. Another deduction is the earned income deduction, which equals 20% of the household's total earned income. 7 C.F.R. §273.9(d)(2); FoodShare Wisconsin Handbook, App. 4.6.3. A third possible deduction is for medical expenses exceeding \$35 in a month for elderly or disabled persons. 7 C.F.R. §273.9(d)(3); FoodShare Wisconsin Handbook, App. 4.6.4. A fourth deduction is for child/dependent care. 7 C.F.R. §273.9(d)(4); FoodShare Wisconsin Handbook, App. 4.6.6. The final deduction is for shelter expenses; the deduction is equal to the excess expense above 50% of net income remaining after other deductions. 7 C.F.R. §273.9(d)(5); FoodShare Wisconsin Handbook, App. 4.6.7.

The gross income limit for a household of one is \$1,862. See *FS Handbook* §§ 4.2.1, 8.1.1. The net income limit for a household of one is \$931. *FS Handbook*, App. 8.1.1.

Petitioner's household income is below the gross income limit. This is clear from the testimony & exhibits. The representative from the Department stated so during the hearing. Thus, he is categorically eligible for FS. After the standard deduction (\$149), and the excess shelter deduction (\$313.94), a deduction for excess medical expenses, and the new \$173 court-ordered child support obligation petitioner's net income was \$708.19. See budget screen in exhibit #1. According to FS Handbook 8.1.2, the FS allotment for a 1-person household with a net income of \$708.19 is 16 dollars. I cannot find an error in the calculations of the Department.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

The Department did not err in reducing the FS allotment to petitioner because his income increased and his court-ordered child support obligation decreased.

**THEREFORE, it is**

**ORDERED**

That this appeal is dismissed.

### **REQUEST FOR A REHEARING**

This is a final administrative decision. If you think this decision is based on a serious mistake in the facts or the law, you may request a rehearing. You may also ask for a rehearing if you have found new evidence which would change the decision. Your request must explain what mistake the Administrative Law Judge made and why it is important or you must describe your new evidence and tell why you did not have it at your first hearing. If you do not explain these things, your request will have to be denied.

To ask for a rehearing, send a written request to the Division of Hearings and Appeals, P.O. Box 7875, Madison, WI 53707-7875. Send a copy of your request to the other people named in this decision as "PARTIES IN INTEREST." Your request for a rehearing must be received no later than 20 days after the date of the decision. Late requests cannot be granted.

The process for asking for a rehearing is in Wis. Stat. § 227.49. A copy of the statutes can be found at your local library or courthouse.

**APPEAL TO COURT**

You may also appeal this decision to Circuit Court in the county where you live. Appeals must be served and filed with the appropriate court no more than 30 days after the date of this hearing decision (or 30 days after a denial of rehearing, if you ask for one).

For purposes of appeal to circuit court, the Respondent in this matter is the Department of Health Services. After filing the appeal with the appropriate court, it must be served on the Secretary of that Department, either personally or by certified mail. The address of the Department is: 1 West Wilson Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53703. A copy should also be sent to the Division of Hearings and Appeals, 5005 University Avenue, Suite 201, Madison, WI 53705-5400.

The appeal must also be served on the other "PARTIES IN INTEREST" named in this decision. The process for appeals to the Circuit Court is in Wis. Stat. §§ 227.52 and 227.53.

Given under my hand at the City of Madison,  
Wisconsin, this 16th day of May, 2013

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\sJohn P. Tedesco  
Administrative Law Judge  
Division of Hearings and Appeals



**State of Wisconsin\DIVISION OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS**

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The preceding decision was sent to the following parties on May 16, 2013.

Walworth County Department of Human Services  
Division of Health Care Access and Accountability