



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

In the Matter of

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

DECISION

FOO/149860

PRELIMINARY RECITALS

Pursuant to a petition filed June 10, 2013, under Wis. Admin. Code § HA 3.03(1), to review a decision by the Dane County Department of Human Services in regard to FoodShare benefits (FS), a hearing was held on July 01, 2013, at Madison, Wisconsin.

The issue for determination is whether the Department erred in the reduction of petitioner FS allotment from \$298 to \$127 effective May 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: Jessica Cooper

Dane County Department of Human Services
1819 Aberg Avenue
Suite D
Madison, WI 53704-6343

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:

John P. Tedesco
Division of Hearings and Appeals

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Petitioner (CARES # [REDACTED]) is a resident of Dane County.
2. Petitioner was a recipient of FS in May 2013. The Department sent notice to petitioner indicating that her FS allotment would drop from \$298 to \$127 effective May 1, 2013.

3. Petitioner's unearned income was \$653 from W-2 and \$497 from unemployment. She had no other income. This was an increase from an earned income of \$767.50 in the previous months due to a change in W-2. Petitioner pays \$256 in rent per month.
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, \$149 per month for a two 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.

Petitioner did not dispute the income numbers budgeted by the Department. The gross income limit for a household of two was \$2,522. See *FS Handbook* §§ 4.2.1, 8.1.1. The net income limit for a household of two was \$1,261. *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, she is categorically eligible for FS. After the standard deduction (\$149), and the excess shelter deduction (\$198.75) petitioner's net income was \$799.75. See budget screen. According to *FS Handbook* 8.1.2, the FS allotment for a 2-person household with a net income of 799.75 was \$127. I cannot find an error in the calculations of the Department.

Petitioner asserted did not contest the calculations or income numbers used by the Department. She argued only that she did not understand why her allotment was so low. I can only apply the rules of the program as they exist. It appears to me that the Department's determination is not an error. It appears that the change in May was a direct result of an increase in petitioner's unearned income by nearly \$400 per month.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Department did not err in calculating petitioner's FS allotment.

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 30th day of July, 2013

\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 July 30, 2013.

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