



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

In the Matter of

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

DECISION

BCS/156703

PRELIMINARY RECITALS

Pursuant to a petition filed April 07, 2014, under Wis. Stat. § 49.45(5)(a), to review a decision by the Milwaukee Enrollment Services in regard to Medical Assistance, a telephonic hearing was held on May 07, 2014, at Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The issue for determination is whether Milwaukee Enrollment Services (MES) correctly discontinued the petitioner’s BadgerCare Plus eligibility effective April 1, 2014 due to household income above the 100% MAGI income limit of \$1,310.83 for a group of two.

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, Room 651
Madison, Wisconsin 53703

By: Simone Johnson, IMM advanced
Milwaukee Enrollment Services
1220 W Vliet St, Room 106
Milwaukee, WI 53205

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:

Gary M. Wolkstein
Division of Hearings and Appeals

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Petitioner (CARES # [REDACTED]) is a resident of Milwaukee County who resides with her husband, [REDACTED]. The petitioner and her husband are a non-elderly, childless couple for BC income eligibility purposes.
2. Petitioner’s husband receives monthly SSDI of \$1,366.00.

3. On February 18, 2014, the petitioner filed an online application for BadgerCare Plus and FoodShare benefits.
4. Milwaukee Enrollment Services (MES) sent a February 26, 2014 Notice of Decision to the petitioner stating that effective April 1, 2014 her BadgerCare (BC) Plus eligibility would discontinue due to household income above the 100% FPL of \$1,310.83 for a household of two per BadgerCare Plus Eligibility Handbook, 16.1.1, "Income Limits. See Exhibit 1.
5. On March 26, 2014, petitioner submitted another BadgerCare (BC) Plus application seeking BC eligibility as a childless adult effective April 1, 2014.
6. On March 27, 2014, Milwaukee Enrollment Services (MES) sent a Notice of Decision to the petitioner stating that effective April 1, 2014 her BadgerCare Plus eligibility would discontinue due to household income above the 100% FPL of \$1,310.83 for a household of two per BadgerCare Plus Eligibility Handbook, 16.1.1. See Exhibit 2. The petitioner appealed.
7. ██████████ ██████████ remains eligible for MAPP benefits.

DISCUSSION

BadgerCare Plus is a Wisconsin variant of the MA program, for non-elderly, non-disabled Wisconsin residents. The program's nonfinancial eligibility standards were broadened effective April 1, 2014, to include adults who do not have minor children in their home. Wis. Stat. § 49.45(23); 2013 Wisconsin Act 116, § 29, for effective date; *BadgerCare Plus Eligibility Handbook (BCPEH)*, § 2.1, online at <http://www.emhandbooks.wisconsin.gov/bcplus/bcplus.htm> (viewed in March 2014). The petitioner meets the nonfinancial eligibility tests for the program.

The petitioner must also pass an income test. An eligible applicant cannot have adjusted gross income exceeding 100% of the federal poverty level (FPL). Wis. Stat. § 49.45(23)(a); *BCPEH*, § 16.1. The 100% FPL amount is \$972.50 monthly for a household of one, and **\$1,310.83** for a household of two persons in 2014. *Id.*, § 50.1.

The Department has correctly counted the unearned income of \$1,366 from her husband's SSDI monthly benefits. The petitioner did not dispute that SSDI amount. The petitioner requested that an exception be made because her household income of \$1,366 was only about \$55 over the income limit of \$1,310.83. However, there is no exception that applies for being only a small amount over the income eligibility limits. Petitioner also explained that she is unable to afford any of the plans through the Affordable Care Act Marketplace. From gross income, the Department is allowed to subtract only those income tax deductions listed on lines #16 - #19 of the federal 1040A tax return, subject to modifications listed at 42 C.F.R. § 435.603(e). The petitioner was unable to identify any of these adjusted gross income deductions as being applicable in this case because her household only has her husband's unearned SSDI income. The petitioner was unable to refute that her countable household income does exceed 100% FPL for a household of two persons. Accordingly, based upon the above, I must conclude that Milwaukee Enrollment Services correctly discontinued the petitioner's BadgerCare Plus eligibility effective April 1, 2014 due to household's income above the 100% MAGI income limit of \$1,310.83 for a group of two.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The petitioner's household income does exceed the relevant 100% MAGI FPL limit for BCP eligibility for a household of two.
2. Milwaukee Enrollment Services correctly discontinued the petitioner's BadgerCare Plus eligibility effective April 1, 2014 due to household's income above the 100% MAGI income limit of \$1,310.83 for a group of two.

THEREFORE, it is ORDERED

The petition for review herein be and the same is hereby Dismissed.

REQUEST FOR A REHEARING

You may request a rehearing if you think this decision is based on a serious mistake in the facts or the law or if you have found new evidence that would change the decision. Your request must be **received within 20 days after the date of this decision**. Late requests cannot be granted.

Send your request for rehearing in writing to the Division of Hearings and Appeals, 5005 University Avenue, Suite 201, Madison, WI 53705-5400 **and** to those identified in this decision as "PARTIES IN INTEREST." Your rehearing request must explain what mistake the Administrative Law Judge made and why it is important or you must describe your new evidence and explain why you did not have it at your first hearing. If your request does not explain these things, it will be denied.

The process for requesting a rehearing may be found at Wis. Stat. § 227.49. A copy of the statutes may be found online or 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 filed with the Court **and** served either personally or by certified mail on the Secretary of the Department of Health Services, 1 West Wilson Street, Room 651, Madison, Wisconsin 53703, **and** on those identified in this decision as "PARTIES IN INTEREST" **no more than 30 days after the date of this decision** or 30 days after a denial of a timely rehearing (if you request one).

The process for Circuit Court Appeals may be found at Wis. Stat. §§ 227.52 and 227.53. A copy of the statutes may be found online or at your local library or courthouse.

Given under my hand at the City of Madison,
Wisconsin, this 25th day of June, 2014

\sGary M. Wolkstein
Administrative Law Judge
Division of Hearings and Appeals



State of Wisconsin\DIVISION OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS

Brian Hayes, Administrator
Suite 201
5005 University Avenue
Madison, WI 53705-5400

Telephone: (608) 266-3096
FAX: (608) 264-9885
email: DHAmail@wisconsin.gov
Internet: <http://dha.state.wi.us>

The preceding decision was sent to the following parties on June 25, 2014.

Milwaukee Enrollment Services
Division of Health Care Access and Accountability