

Reasons for Decision:

The appellant appealed that the appellant's income assistance was insufficient; the appellant did not receive the appellant's full monthly benefits for the month of <date removed> and the appellant's benefits were being reduced when they should not have been.

The appellant attended the hearing with the <references removed>. The appellant reported that the appellant was not receiving enough income assistance. The appellant stated that the appellant had been receiving benefits every <number removed> days and then on <date removed>, the appellant's deposit was reduced by about half. The appellant understood that this deposit was for bus fare and purchased tickets with these funds and then wondered where the rest of the benefits were. The appellant also understood that a recovery which was supposed to have been finished by early <date removed> was still being deducted from the appellant's benefits until <month removed>.

The Department reported at the hearing that the appellant was receiving the appellant's assistance on a bi-weekly basis. In <date removed>, the appellant's benefits were suspended as reporting requirements were not met; the appellant had been asked to provide bank statements to confirm financial transactions and until this information was provided, only seven days assistance was provided on <date removed>. The required statements were received on <date removed> and on <date removed>, the appellant's assistance was returned to a 14 day issue status. A letter explaining the shortened seven day benefits was sent to the appellant on <date removed> however, it apparently did not reach the appellant until after the <date removed> deposit of seven days' assistance, adding to the appellant's confusion. Regarding recovery of an overpayment, the Department reported that an outstanding overpayment was existing from the time the appellant was previously receiving benefits. When the appellant was re-enrolled in <date removed>, recovery continued at a rate of <amount removed> per month, with the final amount recovered from the <date removed> benefit. With the overpayment fully recovered, the appellant's benefits have no deductions effective <date removed>.

After carefully considering the written and verbal information the Board has determined that the Department has correctly administered and calculated the appellant's entitlement for income assistance benefits. Eligibility cannot be determined until confirmation of income has been received. The appellant was requested to submit financial information and when not received, the Department shortened the appellant's benefits. When requested information was received, full benefits were reinstated. Regarding the overpayment, the Department correctly recovered the overpayment from the appellant's benefits. Therefore the decision of the Director has been confirmed and the appeal has been dismissed.