

Reasons for Decision:

Order # AP1718-0191

The appellant appealed that a request for income assistance benefits had been denied.

The appellant contacted the program requesting an appointment to re-apply for income assistance. The appellant's file had been closed in <date removed> once the appellant began to receive funding from Student Aid, which includes a living allowance. The appellant completed an application on <date removed>. The appellant presented the appellant's student aid documents and was advised that due to an unapproved education plan and receiving Student Aid, the appellant would not be eligible. As a general assistance recipient with children <text removed>, the appellant had work expectations and was expected to pursue employment. Additionally, the amount the appellant receives from Student Aid exceeds what an income assistance budget would be. The program explained at the hearing that receiving approval to attend post-secondary education involves a lengthy assessment process and requires application for funding through Employment and Training Services.

The appellant provided the details of the Student Aid funding which showed the appellant was provided with a total of <amount removed> in funding, some of which is a loan. The appellant understands that the Student Aid income is higher than what the appellant would receive from income assistance; however the appellant was hoping to continue receiving the income assistance health care plan, as that coverage was discontinued with the file closure.

After carefully considering all the written and verbal information the Board has determined that persons attending post-secondary education must use the financial resources available through the Student Aid program to support themselves unless they have received authorization from the Employment and Income Assistance Program. The appellant's student aid funds also far exceeded what an income assistance budget would be, deeming the appellant ineligible for benefits, including health coverage.

The Board has therefore confirmed the decision of the Director and agrees that the program had sufficient reason to deny the appellant's request for income assistance benefits.

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