



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

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February 2, 2012

The Honorable Paul Opsommer
Michigan House of Representatives
93rd District
PO Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Representative,

This is in response to your letter of December 8th, regarding the Home Help program. The Department of Human Services has provided response information below in italicized bold.

- 1) How long has the "Home Help Program" been in existence?
The Home Help Program began in 1981.
- 2) Has the "Home Help Program" always been administered by DHS, and if not, who previously administered it?
The DHS had sole responsibility for the Home Help program from 1981 until March 1997. In March 1997, an executive order moved the program and the funding to the DCH. The two departments work together in collaborating policy, but while the funding is with DCH, DHS staff determine eligibility and manage the home help cases.
- 3) Are there other programs under DHS or MDCH where people receive money for receiving home based care? If so, what are they, and how are payments administered?
DCH is responding.
- 4) In the case of multiple options for home based care, under what conditions does the state determine who is eligible or excluded from different programs, and under what circumstances can a person choose which program they can use (ie: they are eligible to participate in only one program at a time but have several to choose from.)
There are eligibility criteria for each program such as Home Help and MI Choice Waiver. The client receives services from the program where eligibility has been determined, and by which program best meets the client's needs. The client is not able to receive services from both programs (Home Help Program and MI Choice Waiver Program) simultaneously, as both programs are Medicaid funded.
- 5) Under what circumstances can a person receiving payment for home based services later apply for unemployment? As one example, can a person caring for an elderly parent in their home apply for unemployment when the parent passes on and the Medicaid payments cease?
DCH is responding.