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February 2, 2018

The Honorable Jenny Abbott Kitchings
The South Carolina Court of Appeals
P.O. Box 11629
Columbia, SC 29211

RECEIVED
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SC Court of Appeals

Re: Dianna Owens v. Pee Dee Community Action Agency
WCC File No.: 1601273 DOI: 2/1/2016
Carrier: State Accident Fund - Claim No.: 2016-000264
WJC&B File No.: 0385.01331

Dear Ms. Kitchings:

Please allow this letter to serve as a response to your correspondence dated January 22, 2018, regarding whether a filing fee is required for Appellant's Notice of Intent to Appeal in the above captioned claim. No filing fee was submitted because the carrier is the State Accident Fund, which is an agency/department of the State of South Carolina. Based on the enclosed document, it is my understanding that the Pee Dee Community Action Partnership is a nonprofit agency that is part of a nationwide network of community action agencies operating in the counties of Dillon, Marion, and Florence. It is still Appellant's position that no filing fee is required since the State Accident Fund is the appellant/carrier.

I attempted to call the case manager assigned to my case, but I was unable to reach anyone. Since the deadline set forth in your correspondence is coming up, out of an abundance of caution, I have enclosed a \$100.00 filing fee check if it is deemed appropriate. If the court is in agreement with me that no filing fee is necessary, please contact me and I will come pick up and cancel the check. I appreciate your attention on this matter.

With kindest regards,

WILLSON JONES CARTER & BAXLEY, P.A.



John Gabriel Coggiola

JGC/jgc

Enclosure(s)

cc: Mr. Stephen J. Wukela
Ms. Meredyth Harden (**via email**)



The South Carolina Court of Appeals

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January 22, 2018

Mr. John Gabriel Coggiola, Esquire
3600 Forest Drive, Suite 204
Columbia SC 29204

Re: Dianna Owens v. Pee Dee Community Action Agency
Appellate Case No. 2018-000073

Dear Counsel:

Referenced in your letter dated January 18, 2018, you mention that no filing fee is required due to the appeal being by a state agency or department. Please clarify within ten (10) days of the date of this letter whether Pee Dee Community Action Agency is a state agency.

Very truly yours,


CLERK

cc: Stephen J. Wukela, Esquire
Sarah C. Sutusky, Esquire

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Pee Dee Community Action Partnership assistance programs.

The assistance available from Pee Dee Community Action Partnership is wide ranging. The non-profit agency is part of the nationwide network of community action agencies. They offer a number of emergency financial aid programs to the less fortunate as well as resources for fighting poverty in the counties of Dillon, Marion, and Florence.

Government support programs from Pee Dee Community Action

The full time staff from the non-profit conduct outreach to the less fortunate. They offer applications assistance for the food stamp program, now known as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP). At the office is a self-screening tool that is available for anyone who is interested in applying for this benefit. Those in need of additional guidance from a case manager, or who need help with the application process, are encouraged to contact Pee Dee for further support. The appropriate staff member from the non-profit will respond promptly.

Pee Dee is also the overall lead agency on homelessness for the Continuum of Care Process in Dillon and Florence County. The agency coordinates services offered through other agencies that assist the homeless, people facing eviction and the at-risk residents in the region. As a part of this effort, the Pee Dee Community Action Partnership Case Management for the Homeless Program provides supportive services as well as access to rent assistance to assist those who are homeless or at-risk.

Any grants for rent or energy bills are combined with self-sufficiency. Staff members have access to resources needed to integrate available financial assistance, including both material aid, placement into affordable housing and counseling. The Pee Dee Community Action Partnership will also work to motivate clients as they work to resolve the issues that caused their circumstances, while also providing social services and intervention. All of this is done in an effort to ensure that they will not be homeless again in the future.

In order to receive Case Management for the Homeless services or placement into a shelter, each applicant is required to first meet with a case manager. At these sessions the client will be able to complete an intake assessment to determine eligibility for a grant or short term housing.

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Pee Dee's Human Services Program offers an array of resources as well. This is offered in an effort to assist residents of Marion, Dillon and Florence Counties. There are resources listed on this page as well as other programs, such as General Emergency Assistance, the Homeless Program, Housing and Support, and the LIHEAP - Low Income Home Energy Assistance Grant Program. This provide financial assistance with utility bills for home heating and cooling, security deposits or money for rent or medical needs.

Eligibility requirements for any support from the non-profit vary from program to program, but all share the requirement that an applicant be facing a crisis and/or be earning a low income. To be considered for Homeless Program services or placement into a shelter, the applicant must lack a permanent night-time home. Rent and deposit help is even more restrictive. All services are dependent on the availability of funds in the greater Dillon County area, which are provided through the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG).

Head Start Pee Dee Community Action Partnership is a federally funded, educational preschool program for children from low-income families. There are various schools as well as local nonprofit organizations that operate Head Start programs in nearly every county in the US.

During a typical day in the Head Start program, children participate in age-appropriate educational activities. They will be able to receive free medical and dental care in Florence County, enjoy indoor and outdoor play, and are provided with healthy meals and snacks, all in a safe and welcoming setting. There are restrictions in that the annual family income of the household does not exceed the Federal Poverty Level and that children are three or four years of age by September 1 of their first year enrolled.

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Additional services from Pee Dee

The Transitional Shelter in the region provides long as well as short term housing, along with financial assistance. Any no-interest loans from the organization and related supportive services include transportation in the agency van and free, twice-daily meals. The Pee Dee Community Action Partnership Transitional Shelter's only eligibility requirement is that each applicant indicates that he or she is on a low income. They also need to be willing to work to develop and implement a plan of action, with the ultimate goal of becoming self-sufficient.

Residents with lack of insurance can apply to the Medically Indigent Assistance Program (MIAP). There is funding from the Florence, Dillon, and Marion County governments and general hospitals. The state offers assistance to inpatient residents of the state who have insurance that offers insufficient coverage or that no insurance.



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Since the MIAP program is affiliated with the general hospitals as well as county governments referenced above, participants' gross family income cannot exceed 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. They also need to lack savings, and the patient assets cannot exceed an amount set by the program.

The 523 Mutual Self-Help Housing Program in South Carolina offers an opportunity for eligible applicants to obtain affordable home to live in. The non-profit will issue a grant, so housing offered will not require a down payment or closing costs from the family. Prospective clients are asked to show driver's licenses, proof of household income, and Social Security cards.

There is also help in starting a day care business. Residents can become an in-home family day care provider. The Pee Dee CAP Day Care Homes Program is involved in reimbursing people for food and preparation costs. They also offer guidance in ensuring that children in their care receive nutritious and safely prepared meals and snacks. All in-home day care providers are required to be appropriately licensed or approved.

Appointments are needed for services from Pee Dee Community Action Partnership. The office is at 2685 S. Irby St., Florence, South Carolina 29505. Dial 843-678-3400.



- Utility Bill Assistance
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