



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
PO BOX 716

CAROLE JOHNSON
Commissioner

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0716

NATASHA JOHNSON
Assistant Commissioner

The following Decision is distributed for your information. This Decision has been made in consideration of the specific facts of this case. This Decision is not to be interpreted as establishing any new mandatory policy or procedure otherwise officially promulgated.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

FINAL DECISION

OAL DKT. NO. HPW **00749-20 N.L.**

AGENCY DKT NO **C072333018 (SOMERSET COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner challenges the correctness of the Respondent Agency's calculation of her Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On February 18, 2020, the Honorable Sarah G. Crowley, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On February 25, 2020, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's calculation of Petitioner's SNAP benefits. Here, the record reflects that the Agency approved Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits, effective December 10, 2019. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 8-9, 10-27. Based upon her income and expenses, as provided to the Agency, Petitioner's monthly SNAP benefit allotment was determined to be \$16. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 30, 31-32, 33, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-6.16. Petitioner testified that she remains unclear as to why she only receives \$16 per month in SNAP benefits when, in addition to utilities and other expenses, she pays \$180 per month for her child's Medicaid, and \$50 per month for her student loans. See Initial Decision at 2.

The ALJ found that, after considering Petitioner's income as received by the Agency, and applying all appropriate regulatory deductions, the Agency determined that Petitioner was entitled to \$16 per month in SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 30, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-6-16(b) (8), (9). The ALJ further found that Petitioner did not dispute any of the amounts that were used to calculate her monthly SNAP benefit allotment. See Initial Decision at 3. Based on the record presented, the ALJ affirmed the Agency's calculation of the amount of Petitioner's monthly SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-1 at 8-9, 30, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-6.9, -6.16(b). Based upon an independent review of the record, I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.

As Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have considered the record in this matter and the ALJ's Initial Decision and I concur with the ALJ's decision and hereby adopt the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law in this matter.



By way of comment, the record is devoid of any verification, i.e., receipts, payment stubs, returned checks, etc., of payments made to Medicaid. Therefore, Petitioner is without prejudice to provide proof of Medicaid payments to the Agency, and upon receipt of same, the Agency shall, if applicable, re-calculate Petitioner's SNAP benefit allotment, and issue any revised SNAP benefits amount prospectively. See N.J.A.C. 10:87-8.18.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision in this matter is ADOPTED, and the Agency's action is hereby AFFIRMED.

Officially approved final version.

MAR 11 2020

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

