



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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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 **09972-22 A.S.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C284375009 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of his application for Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits, contending that Petitioner had failed to provide information and documentation necessary to determine eligibility. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On December 2, 2022, the Honorable Matthew G. Miller, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents. The record remained open for the submission of additional documents and argument, and then closed on December 22, 2022.

On December 23, 2022, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reveals that Petitioner applied for SNAP benefits on June 9, 2022. See Initial Decision at 2. Thereafter, the Agency sent Petitioner a Request for Verification, seeking, amongst other things, employment and income information, proof of citizenship for four household members, and proof of residence, which are necessary to determine eligibility. *Ibid.*; see also Exhibit R-2. When the Agency did not receive all of the required documentation, on September 12, 2022, the Agency denied Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibits R-3, R-5, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19. While Petitioner maintained that the requested documentation was sent via email, the ALJ found Petitioner's assertion to be unsupported and his testimony pertaining to the issue, not credible. See Initial Decision at 7-8. In order to determine eligibility for SNAP benefits, mandatory verification of certain information is required, such as household income, both earned and unearned income, as well as residency. See N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19, -2.20. Without said verification of required information, SNAP eligibility cannot be determined or granted. *Ibid.* Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had not provided all of the information required to be verified to determine eligibility, and as such, the Agency's denial of SNAP benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 9; see also Exhibits R-3, R-5 and N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19, -2.20. I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.



As Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have considered the ALJ's Initial Decision, and following an independent review of the record, I concur with the ALJ's final conclusion in this matter and hereby ADOPT the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law.

By way of comment, Petitioner is without prejudice to reapply for SNAP benefits, but must provide all information and documentation requested in order to determine eligibility.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED, and the Agency's determination is AFFIRMED.

Officially approved final version.

January 31, 2023

Natasha Johnson

Assistant Commissioner

