



## State of New Jersey

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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 **01247-23 C.B.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **S715006009 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of her 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 April 14, 2023, the Honorable Joann LaSala Candido, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents.

On April 19, 2023, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reveals that Petitioner received paperwork pertaining to a phone interview on or about October 26, 2022. See Initial Decision at 2. Petitioner maintains that she had advised the Agency of a change of address during the telephone interview. *Ibid.* Petitioner further asserts that she sent copies of requested documentation to the Agency by certified mail in December, 2022, and also via facsimile in January and February, 2023. *Ibid.* Despite Petitioner's assertions, she provided no proof of the facsimiles or the certified mail receipt. *Ibid.* The Agency denied Petitioner's application for benefits on November 28, 2022, due to Petitioner's failure to provide documentation. *Ibid.* The Agency maintains that a telephone interview was then conducted with Petitioner on December 8, 2022, however Petitioner denies that such interview occurred. *Ibid.*; see also Exhibit R-1. Nonetheless, the Agency thereafter denied Petitioner recertification of SNAP benefits on January 12, 2023, for failure to provide information, more specifically, information pertaining to income and utility payments. *Ibid.* In order to determine eligibility for SNAP benefits, mandatory verification of certain information is required, such as household income, both earned and unearned income. 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.* Following presentation of testimonial and documentary evidence in this case, the ALJ found the Agency's evidence credible, and no documentation to substantiate Petitioner's assertions had been presented. See Initial Decision at 2-3. The ALJ therefore concluded that Petitioner had not provided the requested 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. *Ibid.*; see also 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, if she has not already done so, 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. June 06, 2023

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

