



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 **10666-23 E.S.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C049140006 (CUMBERLAND COUNTY BD OF SOC SVCS.)**

Petitioner challenges the correctness of the Respondent Agency's determination of her Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits allotment for the month of May, 2023. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On November 21, 2023, the Honorable Robert D. Herman, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents.

On November 28, 2023, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination of Petitioner's SNAP benefits allotment for the month of May, 2023. The ALJ in this matter issued a thorough and comprehensive Initial Decision, detailing the facts in this matter, outlining the applicable law, and then applying law to fact. See Initial Decision at 3-6. The record in this matter reflects that Petitioner was sent a recertification application on February 16, 2023. See Initial Decision at 3. The record further reflects that Petitioner returned the SNAP recertification application on April, 5, 2023, but did not provide any proof of current rental costs. Ibid. Petitioner's SNAP benefits recertification application was processed, and the record shows that Petitioner was issued SNAP benefits for April, 2023, in the amount of \$230. See Exhibit R-1 at 20. On April 18, 2023, the Agency sent Petitioner a Request for Contact, seeking verification of Petitioner's current rental costs. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 15. Thereafter, on April 24, 2023, Petitioner submitted the requested information. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 14. The Agency reviewed Petitioner's rental submission and recalculated Petitioner's SNAP benefits allotment on May 18, 2023, resulting in an increase to said allotment, effective June 1, 2023. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-1 at 2, 12. Petitioner asserts that the increase to her SNAP benefits allotment should have been effective May 1, 2023. See Initial Decision at 3. However, the ALJ concluded that the Agency had processed Petitioner's recertification application in a timely manner, and had adjusted Petitioner's SNAP benefits allotment properly in accordance with applicable regulatory authority. Id. at 6; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-9.5(c)(3) (i). Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency had correctly issued Petitioner's May, 2023, SNAP benefits allotment, and that determination was proper and must stand. Ibid. I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received from either party.



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.

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

Officially approved final version. December 13, 2023

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

