



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 **02283-23 I.A.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C634991007 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's SNAP benefits, contending that Petitioner had failed to provide information and documentation necessary to determine continued eligibility for said benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On April 13, 2023, the Honorable Mumtaz Bari-Brown, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents. The record was held open for receipt of post hearing statements, and then closed on May 4, 2023.

On May 25, 2023, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reveals that Petitioner applied for SNAP benefits on May 9, 2022, and was approved for expedited SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 10-27, 30-31. On May 9, and November 14, 2022, Petitioner was required to provide the Agency with, amongst other things, a Student Aid Report, proof of application for Unemployment Insurance Benefits, proof of address, and proof of shelter expenses. See Initial Decision at 2-4. Petitioner claimed that he had provided the requested information to the Agency, however, the ALJ found that Petitioner had failed to provide any evidence to substantiate his claim. See Initial Decision at 3, 5; see also Exhibit P-1. In order to determine eligibility for SNAP benefits, mandatory verification of certain information is required, such as household income, both earned and unearned income, and post-secondary institution attendance verification. See N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19, -2.20, -5.11. Without said verification of required information, SNAP eligibility cannot be determined or granted. *Ibid.* Following the presentation of testimonial and documentary evidence in this case, the ALJ found the Agency's evidence credible, and therefore concluded that Petitioner had not provided the requested information required to be verified to determine continued SNAP benefits eligibility, and as such, the Agency's termination of Petitioner's SNAP benefits was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 4-5; see also Exhibit R-1 at 33-38, 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, if he 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.

July 11, 2023

Natasha Johnson

Assistant Commissioner

