



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
PO BOX 716

SARAH ADELMAN
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 **09699-22 M.D.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C202264009 (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 December 8, 2022, the Honorable Kimberly A. Moss, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents.

On December 9, 2022, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reveals that Petitioner applied for SNAP benefits on July 25, 2022. See Exhibit R-1 at 1. Thereafter, the Agency sent Petitioner a Request for Verification, seeking information and documentation which is necessary to determine eligibility. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 2. When the Agency did not receive the all of the required documentation, on August 24, 2022, the Agency denied Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-1, 3, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19. 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. While Petitioner asserted she sent the requested documentation, she further stated that certain request information was not provided, nor was there any corroborating evidence with respect to unearned income from Workers Compensation. See Initial Decision at 2-3. 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 3; 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, 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 12, 2023

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

