



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
PO BOX 716

SARAH ADELMAN
Commissioner

TAHESHA L. WAY
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 **08244-23 M.L.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C048230019 (SUSSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner SNAP benefits, contending that she failed to provide all verification documentation needed to determine her SNAP benefits eligibility. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On October 24, 2023, the Honorable John P. Scollo, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On October 25, 2023, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reveals that Petitioner applied for SNAP benefits on April 17, 2023, and was required to provide the Agency with information regarding household income and household composition, including, but not limited to, information pertaining to her live-in partner's ("R.M.") self-employment income. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-1 at #s 1, 2, 5. In order to determine eligibility for SNAP benefits, mandatory verification of certain information is required, such as household income, both earned and unearned income, which includes self-employment 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 the presentation of the testimonial and documentary evidence in this case, the ALJ found that, although Petitioner had provided the Agency with some household income and composition documentation, said documentation did not include sufficient verification of R.M.'s self-employment income, and therefore, the Agency was unable to render a SNAP benefits eligibility determination. See Initial Decision at 3-4; see also Exhibit R-1 at #s 3, 4, 6, 7, 9. Accordingly, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of SNAP benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 4-5; see also Exhibit R-1 at # 8, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.14, -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 SNAP benefits eligibility.

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

Officially approved final version. November 28, 2023

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

