



## 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 **04939-23 O.H.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **S931972009 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of his 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 August 4, 2023, the Honorable Mumtaz Bari-Brown, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents.

On August 14, 2023, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reveals that Petitioner filed an application for SNAP benefits on October 31, 2022. See Initial Decision at 2. On January 26, 2023, the Agency attempted to contact Petitioner at the telephone number which had been provided on his application, but the number was not in service, and Petitioner had not provided an email address on his application. *Ibid.* As the Agency was unable to locate Petitioner, the Agency denied the application on January 26, 2023. *Ibid.*; see also Exhibit R-1. Thereafter, Petitioner filed a new application for SNAP benefits on March 24, 2023. See Initial Decision at 2. The Agency sent Petitioner a Request for Verification on March 24, 2023, seeking, amongst other things, proof of income in the form of paystubs, shelter expenses and identification. *Ibid.*; see also Exhibit R-1. When the requested documentation was not received, the Agency denied Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits on April 25, 2023. *Ibid.* Petitioner maintains that he provided the requested documentation, but had no proof of delivery. See Initial Decision at 2. 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 assertion had been presented. See Initial Decision at 3-4. 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. See Initial Decision at 4; 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 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. August 22, 2023

---

Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

