



## State of New Jersey

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DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
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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 **08270-23 P.C.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C473915004 (CAMDEN-CCBSS)**

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 information needed to determine her SNAP benefits eligibility. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. A hearing was initially scheduled for October 2, 2023, however, at the commencement of the hearing, it was determined that exhibits had not been properly exchanged, and therefore, the hearing was adjourned until October 11, 2023. On that date, the Honorable Carl V. Buck, III, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a virtual plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. The record was held open until October 18, 2023, to allow Petitioner the opportunity to submit documents, and the record then closed on October 19, 2023.

On November 1, 2023, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reveals that Petitioner applied for SNAP benefits on April 13, 2023, and by notice dated April 17, 2023, was required to provide the Agency with information verifying household income and household composition, by April 27, 2023. See Initial Decision at 2-6; see also Exhibits R-4, R-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, and household composition. 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.* Upon receipt of some verifying documentation from Petitioner, the Agency discovered that two other individuals, besides Petitioner and her daughter, may be residing in her household, and as such, Petitioner was required to provide certain information regarding those two individuals, including their income. See Initial Decision at 2-6; see also Exhibit R-1. Also, on her SNAP application, Petitioner had stated that she and her daughter were both college students, and as such, Petitioner was required to provide information verifying certain college attendance information regarding herself and her daughter. See Initial Decision at 2-6.; see also Exhibits R-3, R-4, R-5. 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 was questionable, and insufficient for the Agency to render a SNAP benefits eligibility determination. See Initial Decision at 6. Of note, the record indicates that the Agency would have



accepted the required information from Petitioner for up to 30 days after its May 8, 2023, denial notice, but no such documentation was received from Petitioner until July, 2023. Id. at 5-6; see also Exhibits R-1, R-2. Accordingly, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of SNAP benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 7; see also Exhibit R-1, 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 29, 2023

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

