



## State of New Jersey

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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 **06098-23 R.M.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C017293006 (CUMBERLAND COUNTY BD OF SOC 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 August 9, 2023, the Honorable Robert D. Herman, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents.

On August 11, 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 February 6, 2023. See Initial Decision at 2. On February 7, 2023, after the Agency was unable to contact Petitioner via telephone, the Agency sent Petitioner a Request for Verification, seeking, amongst other things, proof of income in the form of paystubs. *Ibid.*; see also Exhibit R-1 at 12. While Petitioner provided some of the requested information, the income documentation was not submitted, and therefore, on March 8, 2023, the Agency denied Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 2. At the hearing before the ALJ, Petitioner testified that she has not provided the requested verification, nor has she contacted the Agency to seek assistance in obtaining same. See Initial Decision at 3, 6. 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 that Petitioner had not provided the requested information required to be verified to determine eligibility, and as such, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of SNAP benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 7-8; see also Exhibit R-1 at 2, 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 she 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 29, 2023

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

