



# State of New Jersey

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*Governor*

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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 11947-23 A.A.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C173482003 (BURLINGTON COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's SNAP benefits, contending that she failed to provide requested verifications and documentation necessary to determine SNAP eligibility. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On January 17, 2024, the Honorable Joan M. Burke, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing via telephone, took testimony, and admitted documents. The record remained open until January 19, 2024, to allow the Petitioner the opportunity to submit documents and then closed on that date. On February 1, 2024, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received by either party.

As Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have reviewed the ALJ's Initial Decision and the record, and I hereby ADOPT the ALJ's Initial Decision, and AFFIRM the Agency's determination.

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.

Here, the record shows that Petitioner submitted an application for SNAP benefits on July 6, 2023. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-A at 4-17. As a result, on July 13, 2023, the Agency approved Petitioner's application on an expedited basis, and advised Petitioner, in writing, of certain verifying documentation required to be provided to the Agency by July 31, 2023, in order to determine continued eligibility for SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-A at 16, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19, -2.20, -2.30(a)(3). When the requested documentation was not received, on September 8, 2023, the Agency denied Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision at 2-5; see also Exhibit R-C. The ALJ in this matter found that the evidence presented substantiated that Petitioner had failed to timely provide all of the requested documentation to the Agency needed to determine eligibility. See Initial Decision at 3-5; see also Exhibit R-C. Accordingly, the ALJ found that the Agency had properly denied Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision at 2-5; see also Exhibit R-C. I agree.

By way of comment, Petitioner is advised that she may reapply for SNAP benefits, but must timely provide the Agency with all requested documentation needed to determine her eligibility for said benefits.

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



Officially approved final version. February 27, 2024

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

