



## 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 **09469-23 A.H.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C130991008 (GLOUCESTER COUNTY DIV. OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Petitioner's application for Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") and Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's application for WFNJ/GA and SNAP benefits because it maintained that Petitioner had not provided verification of state residence. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On October 13, 2023, the Honorable Robert D. Herman, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents. The record remained open for submission of additional documentation. The Agency provided some documentation on October 20, 2023. No additional documentation having been provided, the record then closed on November 6, 2023.

On November 20, 2023, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's denials of Petitioner's applications for WFNJ/GA and SNAP benefits. The ALJ in this matter issued a thorough and comprehensive Initial Decision, providing a detailed factual timeline, outlining the applicable law, and then applying law to fact. See Initial Decision at 4-12. The record in this matter, specifically, a history of Petitioner's Electronic Benefits Transaction ("EBT") card transactions, coupled with banking records, supports the Agency's assertions that Petitioner was residing in Pennsylvania at the time of Petitioner's application for benefits on August 2, 2023, as well as the time preceding in July, 2023, and following the application through the month of August. *Id.* at 4-8. The ALJ in this case noted that both the WFNJ and SNAP programs have residency requirements for receipt of said benefits, as well as a requirement of an applicant for benefits to cooperate and provide requested documentation needed to determine eligibility. *Id.* at 9-12; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5), -2.12(a) and N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.14, -2.15, -3.3. Additionally, it should be noted that in order to determine eligibility for SNAP benefits, mandatory verification of certain information is required, such as household composition, household income, and residency. 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.* As the facts in the record supported that Petitioner was not residing in New Jersey at the time of application, and because Petitioner had failed to provide requested information needed to determine eligibility, the ALJ found that the Agency had properly denied Petitioner's application for both WFNJ/GA and SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision at



10, 12. Accordingly, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's determinations in this matter, were proper and must stand. Ibid.; see also Exhibit R-1 at 81-85. Based on an independent review of the record, I agree.

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

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.

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

Officially approved final version. January 10, 2024

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

