



## State of New Jersey

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*Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
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*Commissioner*

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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 **08038-23 D.M.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C819826007 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)**

Petitioner challenges the correctness of the Respondent Agency's calculation of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. Petitioner's eligible monthly SNAP benefits allotment was reduced effective June, 2023, due to an increase in the household's earned income. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. An initial plenary hearing was held on October 16, 2023, but was inconclusive. A new hearing was convened on December 20, 2023, before the Honorable Patrice E. Hobbs, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), who held the telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On December 21, 2023, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.

As Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Development ("DFD"), Department of Human Services, I have considered the ALJ's Initial Decision, and following an independent review of the record, the ALJ's Initial Decision is hereby MODIFIED, and the Agency determination is AFFIRMED, based on the discussion below.

It appears that the sole issue in this matter revolves around how the Agency determined Petitioner's monthly earned income amount to be \$2027, as utilized in the documented calculations, which resulted in the reduction of Petitioner's SNAP benefits allotment. See Exhibit P-2 at 1, 2. An independent review of the record in this matter reveals that Petitioner submitted two consecutively dated bi-weekly paystubs to the Agency, one for \$1,346.25, and the other for \$525.00, for a four-week total of \$1,871.25. See Initial Decision at 2. From that total amount, a bi-weekly average amount was then calculated, ( $\$1,871.25 / 2 = \$935.62$ ), then the average bi-weekly amount is multiplied by the regulatory multiplier, 2.167, ( $\$935.62 \times 2.167 = \$2,027.48$ ), for a monthly earned income amount of \$2,027. See N.J.A.C. 10:87-6.9(d) (1) and -6.16(c)(1)(ii). Based on the foregoing, I find that the Agency correctly calculated Petitioner's monthly earned income, including applying the regulatory multiplier. I further find that, using this calculated earned income amount, the Agency then properly calculated Petitioner's monthly SNAP



benefits allotment, effective June, 2023. See Exhibit P-2 at 1, 2-4. The Initial Decision is modified to include the above analysis and findings.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision in this matter is MODIFIED, and the Agency's determination is hereby AFFIRMED, as outlined above.

Officially approved final version. January 23, 2024

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

