



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
PO BOX 716

SARAH ADELMAN
Commissioner

TAHESHA L. WAY
Lt. Governor

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 **13616-23 M.S.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C232950009 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)**

Petitioner challenges the correctness of a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") recoupment by the Respondent Agency, due to an overissuance. The Agency asserts that Petitioner received SNAP benefits to which she was not entitled, as the result of a failure to report household earned and unearned income. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On April 11, 2024, the Honorable Mumtaz Bari-Brown, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ,") held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, admitted documents into evidence, and the record then closed. On May 2, 2024, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed by 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 hereby ADOPT the ALJ's Initial Decision, and AFFIRM the Agency action.

In the instance of an overpayment of benefits, the Agency must recoup the overissuance. See N.J.A.C. 10:87-11.20. One type of overpayment which is subject to recoupment is one which results from "a misunderstanding or unintended error on the part of the household" receiving benefits, called an "Inadvertent Household Error" ("IHE.") See N.J.A.C. 10:87-11.20(e)(2). Repayment of overissuances may be sought for up to six years following the time that the Agency becomes aware of the overpayment. See N.J.A.C. 10:87-11.20(f)(1)(i).

Here, the ALJ found that the Agency had met its burden in establishing, by a preponderance of the credible evidence, that Petitioner received an overissuance of SNAP benefits to which she was not entitled. See Initial Decision at 4, 5. Specifically, the ALJ found that, due to an IHE, Respondent had failed to report earned income and unearned income, in the form of Unemployment Insurance Benefits ("UIB"), which resulted in an overissuance of SNAP benefits to Respondent in the amount of \$23,264, for the period beginning January, 2019, through December, 2021. Id. at 2, 3; see also Exhibits P-1, R-1 at 1, 2, 4-5, 10-11, 14-15, 16-18, 32-33, 34, 36, 38, 40, 41, 43-45, 46-48, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.4(a) (1), -5.5, -9.5.

Based on the evidence presented, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner's household had received an overissuance of SNAP benefits to which it was not entitled, which must be repaid, and affirmed the Agency's demand for repayment. See Initial Decision at 5, 6; see also Exhibit R-1 at 6-11. Based upon an independent review of the record, I agree.



Accordingly, the Initial Decision in this matter is hereby ADOPTED, and the Agency's determination is AFFIRMED. I ORDER and direct that the Agency proceed to recoup the overissuance.

Officially approved final version. June 26, 2024

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

