



State of New Jersey

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Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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CAROLE JOHNSON
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TRENTON, NJ 08625-0716

NATASHA JOHNSON
Director

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 15364-18 A.T.

AGENCY DKT. NO. S725353009 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)

Petitioner challenges the Respondent Agency's reduction of her Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits on recertification. The Agency reduced Petitioner's SNAP benefits on recertification due to a decrease in Petitioner's rent and household size. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On November 14, 2018, the Honorable JoAnn Lasala Candido, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents into evidence.

On November 15, 2018, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that at the time of Petitioner's recertification, it was determined that Petitioner's rent decreased from \$277 to \$89 per month. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 1. It was also determined that Petitioner's household size changed from three adults and three children, to two adults and two children. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 4. The Agency determined that Petitioner's monthly household income consisted of \$748 in Retirement, Survivors and Disability Insurance ("RSDI") benefits. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 2. After applicable deductions were applied, Petitioner's monthly SNAP net income was determined to be \$230. See also Exhibit R-1 at 2, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.10(a), -6.16, and Division of Family Development ("DFD") Instruction No. 18-09-01 at 15. Based on the net SNAP income amount, Petitioner's monthly SNAP benefit amount was calculated to be \$573 per month. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 2, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-12.6(a). Petitioner does not dispute the Agency's determination as it relates to the calculation of her SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision at 2. Based on the record presented, the ALJ concluded that the Agency had correctly calculated Petitioner's monthly SNAP benefit amount. *Id.* at 3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 2. I agree.

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

As the Director of DFD, 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 decision and hereby adopt the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in this matter.



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

Officially approved final version.

Natasha Johnson
Director

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