



## State of New Jersey

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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 18102-17 J.R.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C125327002 (BERGEN COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's reduction of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency reduced Petitioner's SNAP benefits due to a change in his shelter costs. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On January 11, 2018, the Honorable Evelyn J. Marose, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents into evidence. On January 16, 2018, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

No Exceptions to this Initial Decision were filed.

As the Director of the 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, I hereby ADOPT the ALJ's Initial Decision and AFFIRM the Agency determination.

Here, based on an independent review of the record, I find that, at the time of Petitioner's recertification for SNAP benefits, Petitioner had a gross monthly unearned income of \$1,115.00 from the receipt of Retirement, Survivors and Disability Insurance ("RSDI") benefits. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibits R-2 and R-8. After application of the appropriate deduction for Petitioner's monthly child support payment of \$725, as well as the appropriate deduction of \$160.00 for a household of one person, Petitioner's net monthly income, for purposes of SNAP benefits, is \$230. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibits R-1, R-2, R-8 and N.J.A.C. 10:87-6.12(c) and -6.16; see also DFD Instruction ("DFDI") 17-09-02. Previously, Petitioner's monthly shelter costs were \$800, plus utilities. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-6. However, Petitioner subsequently moved in with a friend, free of charge, and he does not pay rent or utilities, resulting in a decrease of his shelter costs to \$0.00, with all other amounts remaining constant at the present time. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibits R-1, R-5. Based on the foregoing, I agree with the ALJ's conclusion that Petitioner's SNAP benefits were correctly reduced, from \$192 per month to \$123 per month, based on the application of his changed shelter costs and resultant SNAP net income. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-2; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-6.12(c) and -6.16, and DFDI 17-09-02.



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

Officially approved final version.

**JAN 24 2018**

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Natasha Johnson

Director

