



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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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 **01181-22 A.R.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C785015007 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of his application for Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits, contending that Petitioner had failed to provide information and documentation necessary to determine eligibility. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On March 7, 2022, the Honorable Joann LaSala Candido, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing and took testimony.

On March 14, 2022, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reveals that Petitioner applied for SNAP benefits on October 18, 2021. See Initial Decision at 2. The Agency sent Petitioner a Request for Verification, which listed the documents that needed to be provided to the Agency by November 2, 2021, in order to determine eligibility. *Ibid.*; see also Exhibit R-1 at 2. The Agency conducted a telephone interview with Petitioner on October 22, 2021, during which the required documentation was also reviewed Petitioner. See Initial Decision at 2. When the Agency did not receive the required documentation, on December 3, 2021, the Agency denied Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits. *Ibid.*; see also Exhibit R-1 at 5, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19. In order to determine eligibility for SNAP benefits, mandatory verification of certain information is required, such as household income, both earned and unearned income. 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.* Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had not provided the information required to be verified to determine eligibility, and as such, the Agency's denial of SNAP benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19, -2.20. I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

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.

By way of comment, Petitioner is without prejudice to reapply for SNAP benefits, but must provide all information and documentation requested in order to determine eligibility.



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

Officially approved final version.

March 21, 2022

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

