



## State of New Jersey

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*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 **06996-22 D.G.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C122515006 (CUMBERLAND COUNTY BD OF SOC SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's closure of her expedited Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits case. The Agency closed Petitioner's expedited SNAP benefits case, contending that Petitioner had failed to provide information and verification documentation necessary to determine eligibility. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On September 14, 2022, the Honorable Kathleen M. Calemno, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents.

On September 22, 2022, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reveals that Petitioner applied for SNAP benefits on May 18, 2022. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 1. Thereafter, also on May 18, 2022, the Agency sent Petitioner a Notice of Verification, seeking information and documentation necessary to determine eligibility. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 14. On May 25, 2022, Petitioner was advised that she had been approved for two months of SNAP benefits on an expedited basis, and that when that two month certification period expired, Petitioner would need to provide the documentation to establish eligibility, which had been postponed due to expedited status. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 2-3. When the Agency did not receive all of the required documentation by the June 15, 2022 deadline, the Agency closed Petitioner's SNAP benefits case on June 30, 2022. See Initial Decision at 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19. Petitioner stated that she had returned documentation to the Agency, and had also made a number of phone calls to the Agency, but asserts that she had not been notified that any required documentation was missing. See Initial Decision at 3. However, Petitioner did not represent that she had, in fact, provided all of the requested documentation, and as such, the ALJ found that Petitioner had not submitted the requested information by the deadline. *Id.* at 5, 8. In order to determine eligibility for SNAP benefits, mandatory verification of certain information is required, such as residency and 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 all of the information required to be verified to determine eligibility beyond the expedited certification period, and as such, the Agency's



closure of Petitioner's SNAP benefits case was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 8; 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, if she has not already done so, 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.

October 13, 2022

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Natasha Johnson

Assistant Commissioner

