



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 **01422-22 K.K.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C045227002 (BERGEN COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of her 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 15, 2022, the Honorable Kelly J. Kirk, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On March 24, 2022, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reveals that Petitioner applied for SNAP benefits, for herself and her husband, on December 1, 2021. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1. In accordance with applicable regulatory authority, the Agency is required to verify certain information for SNAP benefits eligibility, including income, and thus, by notice dated December 6, 2021, the Agency requested that Petitioner provide copies of pay stubs, as well as other necessary verifications, by December 16, 2021. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 and N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19, -5.2(a)(1). Petitioner did not provide the requested documentation, and by notice dated January 3, 2022, Petitioner was advised that her application for SNAP benefits was denied. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 and N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.27(e). Thereafter, on January 10, 2022, the Agency received some of the requested documents, but not all. See Initial Decision at 2. As a result, on January 18, 2022, the Agency advised Petitioner that, while some of the requested verifications were received, required copies of the past 30 days of paystubs, as well as a copy of Petitioner's driver's license, were still outstanding. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1. Petitioner provided the remaining items on February 1, 2022, however, as the required documents were provided more than 60 days after the date of Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits, the denial of SNAP benefits remained in force as issued. See Initial Decision at 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.27(e) (1). Based on the foregoing, and in accordance with applicable regulatory authority mandating the verification of certain information, including income, in order to determine SNAP benefits eligibility, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of SNAP benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 4-5; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19, -2.27(e)(1). 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 within the timeframes requested.

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

Officially approved final version.

March 31, 2022

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

