



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
PO BOX 716

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0716

SARAH ADELMAN
Commissioner

TAHESHA L. WAY
Lt. Governor

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

AMENDED DECISION

OAL DKT. NO. HPW **01465-25 B.V.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C878039007 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)**

On June 6, 2025, a Final Agency Decision ("FAD") was issued in this matter. This Amended FAD is being issued to correct an administrative error, and hereby supersedes the previously issued FAD in its entirety.

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 because Petitioner is an ineligible student. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On May 8, 2025 the Honorable Evelyn J. Marose, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. The record was then held open to allow for the submission of additional documentation by Petitioner and then closed on May 19, 2025. On June 2, 2025, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

Here, the record reveals that Petitioner applied for SNAP benefits on November 2, 2024. See Exhibit P-5. In the application, Petitioner indicated she was a full-time college student and that she was not employed. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit P-5. Based upon the information contained in her SNAP application, the Agency determined that the application should be denied because Petitioner was an ineligible student. See Initial Decision at 2; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-3.14(d) and Division of Family Development Instruction No. 19-01-06. At the time of the hearing, Petitioner provided information that she participates in AmeriCorps, however, she argued that she had no obligation to reveal this activity, nor any benefits or income derived from same, in connection with her SNAP application. See Initial Decision at 2. The ALJ in this matter found that the SNAP application submitted by Petitioner indicated that she was a full-time student, who was not employed and not receiving any income, and therefore could provide no evidence that she met the regulatory criteria for receipt of SNAP benefits, and thus, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of SNAP benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 4. 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, if Petitioner was participating in AmeriCorps, and receiving income from such participation, she had an obligation to reveal same at the time of her SNAP application, and same would be considered pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:87-3.14(d). See also N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.11.



By way of further comment, Petitioner is without prejudice to reapply for SNAP benefits, should her circumstances change.

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

Officially approved final version. August 28, 2025

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

