



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 **03212-25 C.F.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C267621020 (UNION COUNTY DIVISION OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner challenges the Respondent Agency's denial of retroactive Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits allotments for July, 2024 through November, 2024. The Agency denied retroactive SNAP benefits for those months because Petitioner had failed to submit requested documentation necessary during the July 2024 recertification process. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On April 10, 2025, the Honorable Mumtaz Bari-Brown, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents. On April 21, 2025, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's denial for retroactive SNAP benefits.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received from either party.

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 hereby ADOPT the Initial Decision, and MODIFY the Agency's determination, based on the discussion below.

In order to determine eligibility for SNAP benefits, mandatory verification of certain information is required, such as household income, both earned and unearned income, as well as residency. See N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19, -2.20.

The record in this matter reflects that during July 2024, the Agency conducted a recertification of Petitioner's SNAP eligibility, including requesting proof of dependent care expenses and rental/mortgage costs. See Initial Decision at 4. On October 1, 2024, the Agency sent Petitioner an Interim Reporting Form ("IRF"), requesting Petitioner provide various information including changes to the household's monthly rental/mortgage cost. *Id.* at 4; see also Exhibit R-1. On October 18, 2024, Petitioner submitted a rental receipt, as well as a letter dated October 12, 2024, indicating the amount of her dependent care expenses. *Ibid.* On November 1, 2024, the Agency processed the IRF, which resulted in authorizing a SNAP benefit increase from \$182 per month to \$493 per month, effective December 1, 2024. *Id.* at 4. The ALJ found that, although Petitioner testified that she provided proof of child care and rental/mortgage costs during July 2024, no evidence was produced to substantiate such testimony and the documents introduced are all dated October 2024. See Initial Decision at 5. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ found that the Agency properly processed the IRF once received, and that Petitioner is not entitled to receive any retroactive benefits for the months of July, 2024 to September, 2024, however, that Petitioner is to receive retroactive benefits for the month of October 2024, in a pro-rata amount to the date the IRF was received on October 28, 2024, and for the month of November, 2024, based upon the increase calculated from the information provided with the IRF. See Initial Decision at 6; see also Exhibit R-1, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-6.16. I agree.



Accordingly, the Initial Decision in this matter is ADOPTED, and the Agency's determination is hereby MODIFIED, and I direct the Agency to issue Petitioner retroactive benefits for the months of October 2024 (pro-rata) and November 2024, as outlined above.

Officially approved final version. May 13, 2025

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

