



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 **10109-25 F.R.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C191858003 (BURLINGTON COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits for failure to provide information necessary to determine eligibility. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for a hearing. On August 25, 2025, the Honorable Michael R. Stanzione, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On September 8, 2025, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

Here, Petitioner applied for SNAP benefits on February 5, 2025 and thereafter, on February 25, 2025, the Agency sent Petitioner a Request for Verification Form for additional information including household composition, verification of address, and citizenship status, which was due by March 7, 2025. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-A. On March 13, 2025, Petitioner submitted a Legal Permanent Resident ("LPR") Card, which had an expiration date of March 16, 2025. Ibid. On March 16, 2025, the Agency sent Petitioner a Request for Contact and requested that she provide an updated LPR card reflecting her citizenship status, verification of her address, and household income within ten days. Ibid. On May 2, 2025, the Agency issued a denial notice to Petitioner, as the deadline for submission of the requested information, necessary to establish benefit eligibility, had lapsed and Petitioner had not supplied the requested information. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-B. On May 12, 2025, Petitioner again submitted the expired LPR card and a Form I-797C Notice of Action from the Department of Homeland Security, which stated that her benefit request was rejected due to a failure to provide a "Reason for Application." Ibid. On June 9, 2025, Petitioner submitted a letter and another I-797C Notice of Action from the Department of Homeland Security which stated that the Notice of Action, in combination with a Form I-551, would provide evidence of lawful permanent resident status for 36 months from the expiration date on the LPR card. Ibid. The Agency provided testimony that Petitioner never submitted information regarding her household composition or address verification, even after being provided with a Household Composition Form to complete. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-B.

The ALJ found that Petitioner had failed to provide the Agency with the required documentation necessary to determine Petitioner's eligibility for SNAP benefits, and as such, concluded that the Agency's denial of Petitioner's application for said benefits was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 4-5; see also Exhibits R-A, R-B, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.14, -2.19, -2.20, -2.22, -2.27. 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 is advised that she must provide all documentation necessary to determine eligibility. Petitioner is advised to communicate directly with the Agency with regards to the applications and any required documentation.

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

Officially approved final version. September 26, 2025

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

