



## State of New Jersey

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*Governor*

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DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
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TRENTON, NJ 08625-0716

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 **05078-25 H.A.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **S911796009 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits at recertification. The Agency denied Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits at recertification, contending that he failed to provide verifications as requested and required to determine his eligibility for continued SNAP benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for a hearing. On May 29, 2025 the Honorable Nanci G. Stokes, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing (Petitioner appeared in person), took testimony and admitted documents. On June 5, 2025 the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Development ("DFD"), Department of Human Services, I have considered the ALJ's Initial Decision, and following an independent review of the record, the ALJ's Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED and the Agency determination is AFFIRMED, based on the discussion below.

Here, the record reveals that, on October 31, 2024, Petitioner's SNAP case was due for recertification, and the Agency requested, via a Request for Information, proof of income, as well as a lease and rental receipt. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1. The Request for Information indicated that income verifications could include the Petitioner's most recent pay stubs, an income verification form from his employer, a self-employment statement, or tax documentation. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1. The requested information was due to the Agency by November 12, 2024. *Id.* at 3. Petitioner did not provide the requested information, and on December 24, 2024, the Agency denied Petitioner's recertification application, and Petitioner's SNAP benefits were terminated. *Ibid.*; see also Exhibit R-1. While Petitioner did submit the lease and rental receipt, no income verification document was sent in response to the Request for Information. See Initial Decision at 3. Petitioner testified that he is paid in cash and that his employer refused to complete an income verification form. *Ibid.* Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency correctly denied Petitioner's application at recertification. See Initial Decision at 3-5; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-9.1 et seq. I agree.

By way of comment, Petitioner is without prejudice to reapply for SNAP benefits, if he has not already done so, but must timely provide all information and documentation requested in order to determine eligibility. Petitioner is advised to communicate directly with the Agency with regards to the application and any required documentation.

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



Officially approved final version. June 10, 2025

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

