



## State of New Jersey

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*Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
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*Commissioner*

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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 12834-25 M.Y.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C190675009 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)

Petitioner challenges the Respondent Agency's denial of retroactive Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits allotments for the months of May, 2025 and June, 2025. Petitioner contends that the Agency should have considered whether she is entitled to retroactive benefits for the months of May, 2025 and June, 2025. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On September 29, 2025, the Honorable Mumtaz Bari-Brown, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents into evidence. On November 7, 2025, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination that Petitioner is not entitled to retroactive SNAP benefits.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.

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, I hereby MODIFY the ALJ's Initial Decision, and MODIFY the Agency actions, based on the discussion below.

Here, the record reflects that the Agency sent Petitioner a notice on June 16, 2025, informing her that her SNAP benefits would increase, due to a change in her amount of earned income as reflected on her Interim Reporting Form ("IRF"), effective July 1, 2025, however, such increase would only occur if Petitioner returned necessary verifications to the Agency. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1. Petitioner contended that she had provided documentation such that her SNAP benefits should have increased effective May, 2025, rather than July, 2025. See Initial Decision at 2.

Based on the record presented, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had not demonstrated that she is entitled to retroactive benefits for the months in question, as she failed to submit the verification of income and expenses requested by the Agency. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-1, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19. I agree, however, a review of the official records of this office indicate that documentation was received on or about May 13, 2025, which would have affected the amount of Petitioner's June, 2025 SNAP benefits. Therefore, I am ordering that Petitioner should be issued an adjustment of \$313 for her SNAP benefits for June, 2025 only. The Initial Decision and the Agency determination are both modified to reflect the above finding.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision is hereby MODIFIED, and the Agency's action is MODIFIED, as outlined above.



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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

