



State of New Jersey

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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 17321-24 P.L.

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C005592010 (HUNTERDON COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner challenges the determination by the Respondent Agency of the effective date of her recertification application for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. Petitioner contends that she should be eligible for benefits retroactive to November 1, 2024, after submission of her SNAP recertification application on November 18, 2024, asserting that she never received the recertification notice from the Agency. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On February 4, 2025, the Honorable Advia Knight Foster, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents into evidence. The record was held open and, due to a recording error, Petitioner's testimony was retaken on February 28, 2025, at which time the record was closed without the submission of any further documents. On March 11, 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 indicates that the Agency sent Petitioner a SNAP recertification application on September 3, 2024, requiring it be completed and returned by October 15, 2024, and noting that Petitioner's SNAP benefits would terminate on October 31, 2024, if her recertification was not received. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1. On October 31, 2024, Petitioner's SNAP benefits terminated as her application for recertification had not been received. See Initial Decision at 3. During November 2024, Petitioner phoned the Agency to inform them she had not received her SNAP benefits and learned that her benefits had been terminated. Ibid. Petitioner contends she never received the recertification application until after the certification period ended, noting that she had issues with her mail, which was held at the post office for her. Ibid. On November 18, 2024, Petitioner submitted a new application for SNAP benefits, which was processed and approved on that date. Ibid. Petitioner has been receiving SNAP benefits since November 18, 2024. Ibid.; see also Exhibits R-2, R-3. Pursuant to regulatory authority, no household may participate beyond the expiration date of its certification period without a determination of eligibility for the new certification period. See N.J.A.C. 10:87-9.1(a). If an application is not submitted until after the certification period has ended, that application becomes an initial application and benefits for that month must be prorated. See N.J.A.C. 10:87-6.2, -6.3. The ALJ concluded that Petitioner did not complete her SNAP recertification application before the end of her certification period, and, as a result, her application of November 18, 2024, was properly processed by the Agency as a new application for SNAP benefits, making Petitioner



ineligible to receive SNAP benefits for the period of November 1, 2024, to November 17, 2024. See Initial Decision at 4. I agree.

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

Officially approved final version. April 02, 2025

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

