



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 **06780-25 S.H.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C193016003 (BURLINGTON COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of her application for Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits, contending that Petitioner's income exceeded the maximum permissible level for receipt of said benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for a hearing. The matter was initially scheduled for June 23, 2025, at which time it was adjourned at Petitioner's request. On July 24, 2025, the Honorable Advia Knight Foster, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents. On August 6, 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.

In order to determine eligibility for SNAP benefits, mandatory verification of certain information is required, such as household income, which includes both earned and unearned income. See N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19, -2.20. Without verification of required information, SNAP eligibility cannot be determined or granted. *Ibid*.

Regulatory authority applicable to SNAP benefit cases, defines income as "all income from whatever source unless such income is specifically excluded." See N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.3. In order to determine an applicant's eligibility for SNAP, the applicant's income and resources must be below a certain threshold. N.J.A.C. 10:87-6.16(d)(2), states that households that do not contain an elderly or permanently disabled household member must meet both the gross income test, as well as the net income test, meaning that the respective income amounts must be below the established standards. See also N.J.A.C. 10:87-12.3, -12.4.

Gross income is determined by adding together the household's monthly earned and unearned income, minus any earned income exclusions. See N.J.A.C. 10:87-6.16(b), (b)(1). That total gross income amount is then utilized to determine a household's SNAP eligibility in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:87-6.16(d)(1) and (2). The maximum allowable gross income level for a household of one person for SNAP benefits eligibility is \$2,322. See DFD Instruction ("DFDI") 24-10-04 at 14.

Here, the record reveals that Petitioner applied for SNAP benefits on February 21, 2025, on behalf of her household of one, and reported income of \$4,200 for that month, consisting of \$3,000 in financial support from a friend and \$1,200 in rental income from a roomer. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibits R-A, R-C, R-D. On February 27, 2025, the



Agent sent Petitioner a request for verifications, asking her to provide information regarding the financial support received including the amount and frequency of such support via an affidavit from her friend. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit B. Petitioner testified that she phoned the Agency regarding the verifications on March 6, 2025, and was told she did not have to provide financial verification information, however, the ALJ found that a preponderance of the evidence did not substantiate such testimony. See Initial Decision at 2-3. Petitioner did not submit the requested verification/affidavit, and the Agency determined that Petitioner had received income in excess of the gross maximum eligibility amount of \$2,322 for a household of one person. See Initial Decision at 3; see also DFDI 24-10-04 at 14. Thereafter, Petitioner's SNAP application was denied effective March 21, 2025. See Exhibit R-D. Following presentation of testimonial and documentary evidence in this case, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of SNAP benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand as her household income exceeded the gross maximum eligibility amount for receipt of SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision at 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-6.16(b)(1). I agree.

By way of comment, Petitioner is without prejudice to reapply for SNAP benefits, should her circumstances change, 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 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. August 13, 2025

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

