



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
PO BOX 716
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0716

SARAH ADELMAN
Commissioner

TAHESHA L. WAY
Lt. Governor

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 **07884-25** Y.D.

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C800892007 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)**

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 due to Petitioner's immigration status. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On July 8, 2025, the Honorable Andrew M. Baron, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On November 24, 2025, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

Here, the record reveals that Petitioner applied for SNAP benefits on March 7, 2025. See Exhibit R-1. In the application, Petitioner indicated she was a refugee from Haiti. Ibid. Based upon the information contained in her SNAP application, the Agency verified Petitioner's immigration status via U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and determined that the SNAP application should be denied because Petitioner was not a qualified alien pursuant to regulation, and denied her application on March 20, 2025. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 and N.J.A.C. 10:87-3.8. The ALJ in this matter found that the SNAP application submitted by Petitioner indicated that she was classified as "Temporary Protected Status," and therefore could provide no evidence that she met the regulatory criteria for receipt of SNAP benefits, and thus, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of SNAP benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 2. 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, in accordance with applicable regulatory authority, in cases involving SNAP benefits, a fair hearing, Initial Decision and Final Decision are all to be completed within 60 days from the receipt of an individual's request for a fair hearing. See 7 C.F.R. § 273.15(c)(1). With this time frame in mind, it should be noted that Initial Decisions in SNAP cases are to be issued within 14 days from the date of the hearing before the ALJ. See N.J.A.C. 1:10-18.1(b).

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

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



Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

