State of New Jersey

MIKIE SHERRILL
Governor

VACANT
Lt. Governor

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

STEPHEN CHA, MD, MHSR
Commissioner

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 **06631-26 B.B.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **S497170014** (**MORRIS CO. OFFICE OF TEMP ASSISTANCE**)

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 had failed to provide information and documentation necessary to determine eligibility. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for a hearing. On September 15, 2026, the Honorable Andrew M. Baron, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents. On that same date, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

Here, the record reveals that Petitioner completed an application for SNAP benefits on March 11, 2026. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 3-17. In support of her application for SNAP benefits, Petitioner provided documentation reflecting that she resided in a county different from the county where she applied for SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision 3. Specifically, Petitioner's identification card and other documents Petitioner had submitted, reflected an address in Union County. Ibid. Accordingly, on March 11, 2026, the Agency requested that Petitioner provide, among other items, proof of residency. Ibid.; see also Exhibit R-1 at 19. The March 11, 2026, request further advised Petitioner that she had 10 days from the date of the notification to provide the requested information, or her SNAP application may be denied. See Exhibit R-1 at 19. The record indicates, and Petitioner confirmed during testimony at the hearing, that she never provided the requested documentation by the March 21, 2026, due date, and subsequently, did provide the information 90 days after the SNAP application was filed. See Initial Decision at 3.

To determine eligibility for SNAP benefits, mandatory verification of certain information is required, such as household income, both earned and unearned income, as well as residency. See N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.14, -2.19, -2.20 and 7 CFR 273.2(f). Without said verification of required information, SNAP eligibility cannot be determined or granted. Ibid. In accordance with applicable regulatory authority, a SNAP benefits household must reside in the county and State in which it files for benefits and may not collect SNAP benefits from more than one location simultaneously. See N.J.A.C. 10:87-3.2(a); see also 7 C.F.R. 273.3.

Following presentation of testimonial and documentary evidence in this case, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had not provided the requested information required to be verified to determine eligibility, and as such, the Agency's denial of SNAP benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 3-4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.14, -2.19, -2.20, -3.2(a) and 7 CFR 273.2(f). 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, Petitioner is without prejudice to reapply for SNAP benefits, if she 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 regard 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. October 08, 2026

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner