State of New Jersey

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Lt. Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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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 **04695-26 D.D.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **S466962014** (**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 because Petitioner was an ineligible college student. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On April 16, 2026, the Honorable Andrew M. Baron, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On September 30, 2026, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, based upon an independent review of the official records of this office, Petitioner applied for SNAP benefits on January 27, 2026, and indicated that she was a college student and that she was receiving federally funded work study monies. On March 2, 2026, the Agency sent Petitioner a Request for Contact, indicating that further information was needed to complete an eligibility determination for SNAP benefits, specifically current verification of enrollment in a federally funded work study program. Petitioner failed to submit proof of enrollment in a federally funded work study program, and thereafter, her application for SNAP benefits was denied because Petitioner was an ineligible college student. See Initial Decision at 2; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87- 2.34, -3.14(d) and Division of Family Development Instruction No. 19-01-06. Accordingly, 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, 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.

Officially approved final version. October 21, 2026

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner