



# State of New Jersey

MIKIE SHERRILL  
*Governor*

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

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 **05491-26 D.M.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C311234007 (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 contending that Petitioner had failed to provide information and documentation necessary to determine eligibility. Thereafter, because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for a hearing. On April 28, 2026, the Honorable Mumtaz Bari-Brown, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents. The record was then held open until May 1, 2026, to allow Petitioner to submit confirmation that she provided documents to the Agency, which were not received, and the record then closed. On May 6, 2026, 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, Department of Human Services, I have considered the ALJ's Initial Decision, and following an independent review of the record, I hereby ADOPT the Initial Decision and AFFIRM the Agency's determination, based on the discussion below.

In order to determine eligibility for SNAP benefits, mandatory verification of certain information is required, such as household income, both earned and unearned income. See N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.14, -2.19, -2.20. Without said verification of required information, SNAP eligibility cannot be determined or granted. Ibid.

Based on the record presented, Petitioner applied for SNAP benefits on January 14, 2026. See Initial Decision at 2. At that time, Petitioner indicated on her application that she resided with her mother, who provided her with meals. Ibid. On January 20, 2026, the Agency sent Petitioner a Request for Verification Form requesting information, including proof of her address and a letter of support stating her eating and living arrangement, which was due to the Agency by January 30, 2026. Ibid. Petitioner did not provide the Agency with any of the requested information, and on February 13, 2026, the Agency denied Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-2, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.27. Following the presentation of testimonial and documentary evidence in this case, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had not timely provided the requested information required to determine eligibility, and as such, the Agency's denial of SNAP benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 2-5; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.14. I agree.



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 regards to the application 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. May 14, 2026

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

