



# State of New Jersey

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*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 20811-25 J.N.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C051387018 (SOMERSET COUNTY BOARD 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 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. The matter was initially scheduled for February 10, 2026, at which time an adjournment was granted for one week to allow Petitioner to provide the requested information. On February 17, 2026, the Honorable Sarah G. Crowley, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents. On February 19, 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.

The New Jersey SNAP Program is designed to promote the general welfare and to safeguard the health and well-being of the population by raising the levels of nutrition among low-income households. See N.J.A.C. 10:87- 1.1(a). In order to determine an applicant's eligibility for SNAP, the applicant's income and resources must be below a certain threshold.

Based on the record presented, Petitioner applied for SNAP benefits on December 22, 2025, and thereafter she completed a telephone interview with the Agency on January 2, 2026. See Initial Decision at 2. Also on January 2, 2026, the Agency sent Petitioner a Request for Verification Form requesting information, including her most recent paystubs, her 401K statement, her bank statements, her rent/mortgage receipt, information regarding her real estate taxes, utility bills, proof of address, and a letter regarding a loan of money from a friend, which were due to the Agency by January 12, 2026. Ibid.; see also Exhibit R-1. Petitioner failed to submit such documentation and on January 21, 2026, the Agency determined Petitioner was ineligible for SNAP benefits and issued a denial letter. Ibid.

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. Without said verification of required information, SNAP eligibility cannot be determined or granted. Ibid. 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 4; 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. March 26, 2026

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

