



# State of New Jersey

MIKIE SHERRILL  
*Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
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STEPHEN CHA, MD, MHSR  
*Commissioner*

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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 21303-25 Y.P.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C065110012 (MIDDLESEX COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits because Petitioner failed to participate in the required interview. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On February 17, 2026, the Honorable Jeffrey N. Rabin, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On March 3, 2026, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

Here, the record reveals that Petitioner applied for SNAP benefits on July 23, 2025 and, on the following date, the Agency provided Petitioner a Certification Appointment for NJ SNAP Benefits notice, indicating a scheduled telephone interview for July 25, 2025, between 8:00 A.M. and 4:15 P.M. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibits R-1, R-2. The Agency reached Petitioner via telephone on July 25, 2025, however, Petitioner stated that she was unable to speak with the representative at that time, and requested a call back later in the day. See Exhibit R-3. The Agency representative phoned again after 3:00 p.m. on July 25, 2025, however, Petitioner did not answer, and a voicemail was left requesting Petitioner call the Agency to reschedule. Ibid. On July 28, 2025, the Agency mailed a Notice of Missed Telephone Interview, indicating that Petitioner needed to contact the Agency to reschedule her interview. See Exhibit R-4. On August 22, 2025, the Agency denied Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits, indicating that she had failed to participate in the required interview. See Exhibit R-5. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had not participated in the required interview, 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, -2.18, -2.22. 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.

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



Officially approved final version. March 12, 2026

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

