

application due to the failure to provide requested verifications. The issue presented here is whether Petitioner provided the necessary verifications for the Morris County Board of Social Services (MCBSS) to make an eligibility determination. Because they are not available through the Asset Verification System (AVS), MCBSS correctly requested the Direct Express statements for Petitioner's account. While Petitioner did not provide all of the statements requested, there is sufficient evidence in the record to establish the funds in Petitioner's Direct Express account.

Due to the unique facts and circumstances presented here, I concur with the ALJ's findings and hereby ADOPT the Initial Decision but MODIFY it with regard to the conclusion that Morris County should have found Petitioner eligible. The information in the Direct Express account may not be the sole factor in determining Petitioner's eligibility. Accordingly, the matter should be returned to the County to determine if Petitioner is in fact eligible for Medicaid benefits.

THEREFORE, it is on this 12th day of JUNE 2019,

ORDERED:

That the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED; and

That the matter is RETURNED to the Morris County Board of Social Services so as to determine eligibility for Medicaid in connection with the application denied in Morris County's January 31, 2019 notice. This Final Agency Decision should not be construed as making any findings regarding Petitioner's eligibility.



Carol Grant, Acting Director
Division of Medical Assistance
and Health Services