



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development
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Chris Christie
Governor

Kim Guadagno
Lt. Governor

Elizabeth Connolly
Acting Commissioner

Natasha Johnson
Director

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 2950-15 A.W.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C236425 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's request for additional information necessary for recertification of Petitioner's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP"), f/k/a the Food Stamp Program, benefits. The Agency requested that Petitioner provide proof of having applied for unemployment insurance benefits ("UIB"). Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On March 31, 2015, the Honorable Richard McGill, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents into evidence.

On April 1, 2015, the ALJ issued his Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's action. The ALJ noted that Petitioner told the Agency that she no longer worked for her former employer, signed an affidavit to that effect, and stated that she would apply for UIB. See Initial Decision at 2. Thereafter, a report from the Department of Labor indicated that Petitioner had voluntarily quit her job. *Ibid.* The ALJ determined that in light of Petitioner's prior employment and the possibility of receiving UIB, which is a form of unearned income to be taken into consideration when determining eligibility for SNAP benefits, it was appropriate for the Agency to request this information from Petitioner. *Ibid.*; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19(b), -2.14.

No Exceptions to this Initial Decision were filed.

As the Director of the 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 decision and hereby adopt the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law in this matter.

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

APR 13 2015

Signed Copy on File

,at DFD, BARA

Natasha Johnson
Director