



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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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 03083-18 D.D.

AGENCY DKT. NO. S465387001 (ATLANTIC CO. DEPT OF FAM. & COM. DEV)

Petitioner challenges the correctness of Respondent Agency's reduction of her Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits, on recertification. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On April 13, 2018, the Honorable Elaine B. Frick, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents into evidence.

On April 24, 2018, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, Petitioner receives \$190 in Supplemental Security Income ("SSI"), and \$611 per month in Retirement, Survivors and Disability Insurance ("RSDI"). See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 3, 9-10, 16-18. After applying the appropriate deductions, Petitioner's SNAP benefits were reduced from \$103 per month to \$87, due to an increase in Petitioner's total combined gross income. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 1-8, 20. Petitioner agreed that the Agency had utilized the correct figures for calculating her total gross income, had applied the correct deductions for calculating her net countable income, and that her monthly net countable income is \$347.50. See Initial Decision at 3. Nevertheless, Petitioner contends that because the cost of living has increased, her SNAP benefits should not have been reduced by so much. *Ibid.* However, the ALJ found that the Agency's calculation of Petitioner's monthly SNAP benefit was correct, and undisputed by Petitioner, and as such, the ALJ concluded that the reduction of Petitioner's SNAP benefits was appropriate. *Id.* at 4; see also Exhibit R-1 at 1-8, 20, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-6.16, -12.6. I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed by either party.

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 Conclusions of Law in this matter.



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

Officially approved final version.

Natasha Johnson
Director

APR 30 2018

