



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY  
*Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
PO BOX 716

SARAH ADELMAN  
*Acting Commissioner*

SHEILA Y. OLIVER  
*Lt. Governor*

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 08313-21 J.M.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C800099007 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of his application for Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits, contending that Petitioner was residing at home with his parents and under age to have his own SNAP benefits case. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On October 27, 2021, the Honorable Mumtaz Bari-Brown, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing and took testimony. The record remained open for the submission of documents referenced in the hearing and then closed on November 3, 2021.

On November 17, 2021, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reveals that Petitioner applied for SNAP benefits, for himself only, on July 30, 2021, and indicated that he resided at home with his parents. See Initial Decision at 2. Based on applicable regulatory authority, the Agency denied Petitioner application for SNAP benefits, as Petitioner was under the age of 22, residing with his parents. *Ibid.*; see also Exhibit R-1 and N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.2(c)(1). When Petitioner later maintained that he did not reside with his parents, the Agency, as required, requested verification of residency, household income, household composition and housing expenses. See Initial Decision at 2; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.2, -2.19. While Petitioner did provide documentation as to residency, Petitioner did not provide the requested documentation required to determine eligibility, and as such, the Agency's denial of SNAP benefits to Petitioner remained as issued. See Initial Decision at 5. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of SNAP benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. *Ibid.*; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.2, -2.19. 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.

By way of comment, Petitioner is without prejudice to reapply for SNAP benefits in his current county of residence, but must provide all information and documentation requested in order to determine eligibility.



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

Officially approved final version.

DEC - 3 2021

---

Natasha Johnson

Assistant Commissioner

