



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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SARAH ADELMAN
Acting Commissioner

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
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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 08758-21 L.W.

AGENCY DKT. NO. S562587009 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits, at recertification. The Agency denied Petitioner SNAP benefits, at recertification, contending that she failed to provide requested documentation required to determine her SNAP eligibility. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. A hearing was initially scheduled for November 17, 2021, but was adjourned to allow Petitioner the opportunity to obtain proof of her husband's address. On December 1, 2021, the Honorable JoAnn LaSala Candido, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On December 6, 2021, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, reversing the Agency's determination. Here, the ALJ found, and the Agency acknowledged, that on November 18, 2021, Petitioner had provided the Agency with the verification of her husband's address, as requested. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also "Requests for Verification," dated August 3, 2021, October 8, 2021, and November 8, 2021. However, the record reflects that said requested information was not provided to the Agency prior to its recertification denial of SNAP benefits on September 21, 2021. See "Denial Notice," and N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.14. Nevertheless, it appears from the record that the Agency had agreed to process Petitioner's recertification application and to provide SNAP benefits to her, retroactive to November 18, 2021. See Initial Decision at 2. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner's recertification application should be processed and SNAP benefits be awarded to her retroactive to November 18, 2021. *Id.* at 3. Accordingly, the ALJ reversed the Agency's denial of SNAP benefits to Petitioner. *Ibid.*; see also "Denial Notice." 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 REVERSED.



Officially approved final version.

DEC 1, 5 2021

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner



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