



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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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 08270-21 M.H.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C116306008 (GLOUCESTER COUNTY DIV. OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of her application for Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits, contending that Petitioner had failed to provide information and documentation necessary to determine eligibility. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On October 21, 2021, the Honorable Jeffrey R. Wilson, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On October 26, 2021, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reveals that Petitioner applied for SNAP benefits online on June 9, 2021. See Initial Decision at 2. The record further reflects that Petitioner entered an incorrect mailing address on the application. *Ibid.* During the required telephone interview with the Agency on June 14, 2021, Petitioner stated that various family members helped her financially. *Ibid.*; see also Exhibit R-1 at 21. Following the telephone interview, the Agency sent Petitioner a request, in writing, to verify how, and to what extent Petitioner's family members were helping her financially, as well as other documentation, however, due to the incorrect address the request form was returned to the Agency. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 22-23, 24. Thereafter, as Petitioner had not provided the requested documentation to the Agency, a denial notice was issued on July 9, 2021. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 34. On July 12, 2021, a case worker contacted Petitioner and advised her that her application had been denied for failure to provide required documentation, but that, if the requested documentation was provided, Petitioner's application could still be considered during the "second look back" period. See Initial Decision at 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.27(e)(1). The case worker then reissued the same verification requests that had previously been sent on June 14, 2021. *Ibid.* While the Agency received a portion of the requested documentation from Petitioner on July 22, 2021, the requested verification of family financial support was missing from the submission. *Ibid.* Petitioner provided a support letter from one family member on August 25, 2021, however, that letter was outside the "second look back" period. *Ibid.*; see also Exhibit R-1 at 26 and N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.27(e)(1). As such, the Agency's denial of SNAP benefits to Petitioner remained in force. See Initial Decision at 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.27(e)(1) and Exhibit R-1 at 34. Based on the credible testimonial and documentary evidence presented, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had not provided the information required to be verified to



determine eligibility, and as such, the Agency's denial of SNAP benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 4, 5; see also Exhibit R-1 at 34, and 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 her 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.

NOV 19 2021

Natasha Johnson

Assistant Commissioner

