



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 **07477-24 F.M.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C689788007 (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 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. A hearing was initially scheduled for September 17, 2024, but with adjourned. On October 1, 2024, the Honorable Mumtaz Bari-Brown, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents.

On October 16, 2024, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reveals that Petitioner filed an application for SNAP benefits on February 22, 2024. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-2. On March 14, 2024, the Agency sent Petitioner a Request for Verification requesting paystubs and proof of residency. See Initial Decision at 2. In response, on March 27, 2024, Petitioner provided screenshots which did not show Petitioner's gross income. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-3. Thereafter, because Petitioner's submitted information was incomplete, the Agency attempted to contact Petitioner by telephone to resolve the issues, but were unsuccessful. See Initial Decision at 2, 3. As a result, on April 11, 2024, the Agency denied Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits. *Ibid.*; see also Exhibit R-4. In order to determine eligibility for SNAP benefits, mandatory verification of certain information is required, such as household income, both earned and unearned income, as well as residency. See N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19, -2.20. Without said verification of required information, SNAP eligibility cannot be determined or granted. *Ibid.* Following presentation of testimonial and documentary evidence in this case, the ALJ found that Petitioner had not provided the requested information required to be verified to determine eligibility, and as such, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of SNAP benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19, -2.20. 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, if he has not already done so, 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. November 04, 2024

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

