



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
PO BOX 716

SARAH ADELMAN
Commissioner

TAHESHA L. WAY
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 11982-24 K.T.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C132605003 (BURLINGTON COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of applications for Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF"), and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP"), benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's applications for WFNJ/TANF and SNAP benefits, contending that Petitioner had failed to provide information and documentation necessary to determine eligibility for said benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On September 16, 2024, the Honorable Michael R. Stanzione, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On September 27, 2024 the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determinations. Here, the record reveals that Petitioner applied for WFNJ/TANF and SNAP benefits on November 24, 2023. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-A. Thereafter, on November 30, 2023, the Agency sent Petitioner a Request for Information, as well as a Request for Verification, requesting various information and documentation required to determine eligibility. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-B. On December 11, 2023, the Agency received a letter from one of Petitioner's employers and a statement from Petitioner advising the Agency that it could reach out to another one of her employers. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-C. The Agency did fax the required form to that employer, who returned it on the same date, indicating Petitioner's last day of work. Ibid. On January 30, 2024, Petitioner submitted another statement to the Agency authorizing the Agency to request records from two (2) more of Petitioner's employers. Ibid. Neither of these two (2) employers returned the required forms or reached out to the Agency. Ibid. On June 18, 2024, the Agency denied Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF and SNAP applications for failure to provide information. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-E. In order to determine eligibility for SNAP and WFNJ benefits, mandatory verification of certain information is required. See N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19 and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2. Eligibility for SNAP benefits requires verification of gross non-exempt income, and verification for WFNJ benefits requires the applicant to provide all necessary documentation. See N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19(b) and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5) (stating that "As a condition of eligibility for WFNJ benefits, the applicant shall, subject to good cause exceptions, be required to provide all necessary documentation."). Based on the credible testimony and documentary evidence provided, 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 both WFNJ/TANF and SNAP benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 3-5; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19(b) and 10:90-2.2(a)(5). 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 WFNJ and SNAP benefits in her current county of residence, if she has not already done so, but is reminded that she 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

