



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 **08487-24 S.S.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C158296020 (UNION COUNTY DIVISION OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits at recertification. The Agency denied Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits at recertification, contending that he failed to provide verifications as requested and required to determine his eligibility for continued SNAP benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for a hearing. On October 24, 2024, the Honorable Mumtaz Bari-Brown, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents. Following the hearing on October 24, 2024, the record remained open until October 25, 2024, to permit Petitioner to submit documentation, which was not provided, and the record then closed. On November 15, 2024, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Development ("DFD"), Department of Human Services, I have considered the ALJ's Initial Decision, and following an independent review of the record, the ALJ's Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED and the Agency determination is AFFIRMED, based on the discussion below.

Here, the record reveals that Petitioner completed a recertification interview, via telephone, with the Agency on March 22, 2024. See Initial Decision at 2. Following the telephone interview, the Agency sent Petitioner a "Request for Verification" seeking Petitioner's 2023 tax returns including Schedule C, a copy of his mortgage statement, a copy of his homeowner's insurance, verification of his property taxes, and verification of current rental income from two properties owned by Petitioner. Ibid. Petitioner did not provide the requested information, and on March 24, 2024, the Agency denied Petitioner's recertification application, and Petitioner's SNAP benefits terminated effective May 1, 2024. Ibid.; see also Exhibit R-1. While Petitioner did submit some documents, which were received by the Agency on April 2, 2024, none were responsive to the Request sent following his recertification interview. Ibid. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency correctly denied Petitioner's application at recertification. See Initial Decision at 5; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-9.1 et seq. I agree.

By way of comment, Petitioner is without prejudice to reapply for SNAP benefits, but must timely 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. December 24, 2024

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

