



State of New Jersey

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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 03739-18 M.G.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C703942007 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner challenges the correctness of Respondent Agency's reduction of her Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency reduced Petitioner's SNAP benefits due to earned income. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On March 29, 2016, the Honorable Andrew M. Baron, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents into evidence. The record was held open until April 17, 2018, to allow for supplemental testimony, and the record then closed. On May 4, 2018, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed by either party.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have reviewed the ALJ's Initial Decision and the record, and I hereby ADOPT the ALJ's Initial Decision, and AFFIRM the Agency's determination.

Here, Petitioner had previously been receiving SNAP benefits in the amount of \$760 per month. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 5-6. Upon a return to work, in November 2017, Petitioner reported her change in income to the Agency in the amount of \$4,219 per month. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 4-5, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.2. Based on Petitioner's earned income, and after applying the requisite deductions for rent, utilities, and daycare, Petitioner's monthly SNAP benefits were reduced to \$68. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 1-3, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-6.16, -12.6. The ALJ concluded that the Agency's calculation of the reduction of Petitioner's SNAP benefits from \$760 a month to \$68 a month was correct, and as such, that the reduction of Petitioner's SNAP benefits was appropriate, and must stand. See Initial Decision at 3. I agree.



Accordingly, the Initial Decision in this matter is hereby ADOPTED and the Agency's determination is AFFIRMED.

Officially approved final version.

Natasha Johnson
Director

MAY 15 2018

