



## State of New Jersey

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*Governor*

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DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
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TRENTON, NJ 08625-0716

NATASHA JOHNSON  
*Director*

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 05752-19 A.J.

AGENCY DKT. NO. S449637001 (ATLANTIC CO. DEPT OF FAM. & COM. DEV)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's reduction of her Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. Petitioner's SNAP benefits were reduced due to the removal of the medical deduction from the calculation of her monthly SNAP benefit allotment. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On May 24, 2019, the Honorable Kathleen M. Calemme, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents into evidence. On June 3, 2019, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

No Exceptions to this Initial Decision were filed.

As the Director of the 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 hereby ADOPT the ALJ's Initial Decision and AFFIRM the Agency determination.

Here, the record reflects that, through April 2019, Petitioner's monthly SNAP benefit amount was calculated utilizing a medical deduction of \$110. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 5, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.10(a)(3), -6.16(b)(5). In March 2019, the Agency processed Petitioner's Individual Reporting Form ("IRF"). See Exhibit R-1 at 12. Thereafter, based upon its review of Petitioner's IRF, it was determined that the medical deduction was no longer applicable, and it was removed. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 5, 12. Applying a slight increase in Petitioner's monthly rent, and removing the medical deduction, with all other relevant numbers remaining unchanged, resulted in a reduction of Petitioner's SNAP benefit amount from \$117 to \$85 per month. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 1, 4, 6, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-6.16. Petitioner does not challenge the formula used by the Agency to calculate her SNAP benefit allotment, but contends that there were no changes that would account for such a reduction of her SNAP benefit. See Initial Decision at 2, 3. The ALJ found that, in consideration of applicable regulatory authority, and the documentary evidence presented, the Agency was justified in removing the medical deduction, when calculating Petitioner's SNAP benefit amount. Id. at 3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 12. Accordingly, the ALJ concluded that the reduction in



Petitioner's SNAP benefit was appropriate, and that Petitioner's SNAP benefit amount was properly calculated. See Initial Decision at 3-4; see also Exhibit R-1 at 1, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-6.16. I agree.

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

Officially approved final version.

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Natasha Johnson  
Director

JUN 11 2019

