



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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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 **10732-19 N.G.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **S613942012 (MIDDLESEX COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner challenges the correctness of the Respondent Agency's reduction of her Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits amount. Petitioner's SNAP benefit amount was reduced as a result of increased household income. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On August 30, 2019, the Honorable Joseph A. Ascione, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents into evidence.

On September 10, 2019, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's calculation of Petitioner's SNAP benefits. Here, the record reflects that Petitioner, a SNAP benefits recipient, also receives Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") benefits. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 2, R-3. On August 16, 2019, Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF benefits were increased from \$178 to \$214, which caused her SNAP household income to increase to \$1,006. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibits R-1, R-3, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.5(a) (1). Thereafter, as a result of that increased income, Petitioner's monthly SNAP benefits were reduced from \$195 to \$179, effective August 1, 2019. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibits R-1, R-2. The ALJ found that Petitioner's increased household income, comprised of her monthly Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") benefits and WFNJ/TANF benefits, was used to calculate her monthly SNAP benefit amount, effective August 1, 2019. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibits R-1, R-2, R-4, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.3, -6.16. Based on the record presented, the ALJ affirmed the Agency's calculation of Petitioner's monthly income, and concluded that the resultant reduction of Petitioner's SNAP benefit amount was therefore correct. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-6.16. I agree.

No Exceptions to the 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 Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law.



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

Officially approved final version.

Natasha Johnson

Director

SEP 16 2019

