



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
PO BOX 716

CAROLE JOHNSON
Commissioner

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
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 03243-20 C.R.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C515864002 (BERGEN COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner challenges the correctness of the Respondent Agency's calculation of her monthly Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefit amount at recertification. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On July 14, 2020, the Honorable Evelyn J. Marose, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents into evidence.

On July 17, 2020, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that, in December 2019, Petitioner was receiving \$68 in monthly SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-2. Thereafter, Petitioner's monthly Retirement, Survivors, and Disability Insurance ("RSDI") benefits increased due to a mass change, resulting in a reduction of Petitioner's SNAP benefits amount to \$61. Ibid. On February 12, 2020, the Agency notified Petitioner that effective March 1, 2020, her monthly SNAP benefit would increase from \$61 to \$63. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibits R-3, R-6 at 2. The record shows that, at recertification, Petitioner had an increase in shelter costs, from \$120 to \$265, but a prior medical deduction was removed from the SNAP benefits calculation. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibits R-1, R-5, R-6 at 1, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-6.16(b)(5), (8), -12.1(c)(1). Petitioner does not dispute the Agency's calculations; rather, she contends that her monthly SNAP benefit allotment is not large enough to meet her food needs. See Initial Decision at 2.

The ALJ found that the Agency's calculation of Petitioner's SNAP benefit amount, based upon Petitioner's increase in rent, and Petitioner no longer qualifying for the medical deduction, was correct. Id. at 3. Based on an independent review of the record, I concur with the ALJ that the Agency's calculation of Petitioner's SNAP benefit amount at recertification was correct, and must stand. Ibid.; see also Exhibit R-3, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-6.16(b).

No Exceptions to this Initial Decision were filed.



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 decision and hereby adopt the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law in this matter.

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

Officially approved final version.

AUG 27 2020

Natasha Johnson

Assistant Commissioner

