



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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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 **01193-20** I.E.

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C443557004** (CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner SNAP benefits, contending that he failed to cooperate with the Agency in processing his application for SNAP benefits, specifically, by not providing documents, as requested by the Agency. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On February 24, 2020, the Honorable Jeffrey R. Wilson, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On February 26, 2020, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that on December 13, 2019, Petitioner applied for SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 5-16. On December 19, 2019, the Agency requested that Petitioner provide, among other items, and no later than December 29, 2019, copies of the most recent paystubs from his spouse, S.E. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 17. Petitioner did not provide the requested paystubs by December 29, 2019, and therefore, on January 9, 2020, the Agency denied Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 18, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.25. Petitioner eventually provided some the documents the Agency requested on December 19, 2019, but still had not provided S.E.'s paystubs. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 6. Accordingly, on January 13, 2020, the Agency denied Petitioner's application, once again, for SNAP benefits, effective December 13, 2019. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 1-2, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19, -2.25.

Eventually, the Agency was able to obtain S.E.'s salary for the fourth quarter of 2019. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-1 at 3, 4, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.4(a)(1). S.E.'s 2019 fourth quarter salary totaled \$9,245. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 3, 4. From this amount, the Agency determined that Petitioner's household monthly gross income totaled \$3,081.67 ($\$9,245 / 3 = \$3,081.67$). See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 3. The maximum allowable monthly gross income level to receive SNAP benefits for a household of two is \$2,607. See Initial Decision at 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-6.16, and Division of Family Development ("DFD") Instruction 19-09-01 at 8. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner's monthly household gross income exceeded the maximum level allowable for receipt of SNAP benefits, and affirmed the Agency's decision denying Petitioner SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision at 5; see also Exhibit R-1 at 1-2, 18, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.25, -6.16(d)(2). Based on an independent review of the record, I agree with the conclusion of the ALJ.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.



As Assistant Commissioner, DFD, 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 final conclusion in this matter and hereby ADOPT the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law.

By way of comment, Petitioner is without prejudice to reapply for SNAP benefits, but must timely provide all documents, as requested by the Agency.

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

Officially approved final version.

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

MAR 16 2020

