



## State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY  
*Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
PO BOX 716

SARAH ADELMAN  
*Commissioner*

TAHESHA L. WAY  
*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 **03478-25 A.G.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C124569011 (MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS..)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of his application for Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits, contending that Petitioner had failed to provide information and documentation necessary to determine eligibility. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for a hearing. On April 22, 2025, the Honorable Gauri Shirali Shah, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents. On May 2, 2025, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

Here, the record reveals that Petitioner completed an application for SNAP benefits on December 9, 2024. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1. On December 11, 2024, the Agency requested further information and documentation, specifically paystubs for the past thirty days to establish Petitioner's gross monthly income, information regarding shelter and utility expenses, and a termination of SNAP benefits letter from Georgia, where Petitioner had been receiving benefits until November, 2024. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-2. On January 8, 2025, the Agency denied Petitioner's application due to his failure to provide the requested information. Ibid. By the time of the hearing, Petitioner had submitted verifications regarding his shelter and utility expenses, as well as his Georgia SNAP benefits termination letter, however, Petitioner had not provided verification of his income. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-2. On February 25, 2025, Petitioner faxed screenshots relating to his income, however, the ALJ found that the screenshots provided did not identify Petitioner by name or contain any information which would verify the income being attributed to Petitioner. See Initial Decision at 3.

In order to determine eligibility for SNAP benefits, mandatory verification of certain information is required, such as household income, both earned and unearned income. See N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.14, -2.19, -2.20. Without said verification of required information, SNAP eligibility cannot be determined or granted. Ibid. Following presentation of testimonial and documentary evidence in this case, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had not provided the requested information required to be verified to determine eligibility, and as such, the Agency's denial of SNAP benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.14, -2.19, -2.20. I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

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 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 information and documentation requested in order to determine eligibility.

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

Officially approved final version. May 22, 2025

---

Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

