



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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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 **15823-25 C.M.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **S975659009 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of her application for Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits at recertification. The Agency denied Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits, at recertification, contending that Petitioner had failed to provide information and documentation necessary to determine continued eligibility. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for a hearing. On October 21, 2025, the Honorable Ernest M. Bongiovanni, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents. On October 28, 2025, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

Here, the record reveals that Petitioner was sent a Request for Verification from the Agency on June 17, 2025, requesting various documentation including all paystubs from the prior 30 days, proof of Unemployment Insurance Benefits ("UIB"), proof of child support payments, a copy of Petitioner's lease, and a copy of a utility bill. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1. Petitioner failed to respond to the June 2025 request and testified at the time of the hearing that she did not find the request from the Agency until July 18, 2025. See Initial Decision at 2, 4. On July 18, 2025, the Agency denied Petitioner's SNAP benefits application, due to her failure to provide the requested documentation. See Initial Decision at 2, 5; see also Exhibit R-1.

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 continued eligibility, and as such, the Agency's denial of SNAP benefits to Petitioner at recertification was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 5; 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, if she has not already done so, but must timely provide all information and documentation requested in order to determine eligibility. Petitioner is advised to communicate directly with the Agency with regards to the applications and any required documentation.



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

Officially approved final version. November 19, 2025

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

