



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
PO BOX 716

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0716

SARAH ADELMAN
Commissioner

TAHESHA L. WAY
Lt. Governor

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 **08902-25 D.C.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C698878002 (BERGEN COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits and the denial of Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's applications for WFNJ/GA and 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 September 9, 2025, the Honorable Evelyn J. Marose, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents. The record remained open for the receipt of documents and then closed on September 22, 2025. On October 14, 2025, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determinations.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have reviewed the ALJ's Initial Decision and the record, and I hereby ADOPT the ALJ's Initial Decision, and AFFIRM the Agency's determinations, based on the discussion below.

In order to determine eligibility for WFNJ/GA benefits, mandatory verification of certain information is required. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2. Verification for WFNJ/GA benefits requires the applicant to provide all necessary documentation. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5) (stating that "As a condition of eligibility for WFNJ benefits, the applicant shall, subject to good cause exceptions, be required to provide all necessary documentation.").

Additionally, 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. 10:87-2.19, -2.20. Without said verification of required information, SNAP eligibility cannot be determined or granted. Ibid.

Here, the record reflects that Petitioner applied for WFNJ/GA benefits on December 18, 2024, and that, on January 14, 2025, the Agency sent Petitioner a Request for Verification specifically requesting a statement as to where he was staying, an explanation as to how he was supporting himself, as he stated in his application that he had no income or resources, and a letter from his bank regarding an account closure. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibits R-5, R-9. Petitioner failed to submit any of the requested documentation and on January 24, 2025, the Agency issued a denial letter for WFNJ/GA and SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibits R-2, R-4, R-7, R-18. Petitioner testified that, due to his homelessness at the time, he was prevented from timely responding to the Agency's request. See Initial Decision at 2. The Agency representative testified that Petitioner never contacted the Agency to request an extension of time to provide the requested verifications, nor did he ever file a new application for benefits. Ibid. The ALJ, after



considering the testimonial and documentary evidence, found Petitioner to not be credible. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibits P-11, P-12. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had not provided the documentation required to be verified for WFNJ/GA benefits or SNAP benefits eligibility, and as such, that the Agency's denial of WFNJ/GA and SNAP benefits to Petitioner were proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5), N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19, -2.20. I agree.

By way of comment, Petitioner is without prejudice to reapply for WFNJ/GA and SNAP benefits, but is reminded that he must 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, as outlined above.

Officially approved final version. November 07, 2025

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

