



State of New Jersey

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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 **10959-25 D.G.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C185018003 (BURLINGTON COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of her 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 September 22, 2025, the Honorable Jeffrey N. Rabin, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents. On September 26, 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 October 21, 2024. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit A. The Agency then determined, via a search of a labor database, that Petitioner was employed by two different employers, as well as that she was receiving Unemployment Insurance Benefits ("UIB"). See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit B. On October 24, 2024, the Agency requested further information and documentation, specifically paystubs for the past thirty days to establish Petitioner's gross monthly income. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit C. Petitioner failed to respond to the October 2024 request. Ibid. On February 21, 2025, the Agency sent Petitioner a further request for information and documentation, specifically information as to her work-study program and/or thirty days of paystubs or an employer separation letter, if applicable. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit C. Petitioner did submit a separation letter, however, her separation was not effective at the time of her SNAP application, as it was effective March 8, 2025, which resulted in Petitioner still being required to provide four weekly paystubs. See Initial Decision at 3. On March 25, 2025, the Agency denied Petitioner's SNAP benefits application, effective May 1, 2025, due to her failure to provide the requested thirty days of paystubs. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit D. Petitioner never supplied paystubs to the Agency. 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 3-5; 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. October 22, 2025

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

