



## State of New Jersey

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*Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
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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 **14572-24 D.P.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C176915003 (BURLINGTON COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of her application for Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits for the period of April 2024 to July 2024. The Agency denied Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits for that time period, contending that Petitioner had failed to provide documentation necessary to determine eligibility. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for a hearing. On January 13, 2025, the Honorable Kim C. Belin, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents.

On January 24, 2025, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. The ALJ in this matter issued a very thorough and comprehensive Initial Decision, providing a detailed and well thought out analysis, as well as a comprehensive chronological explanation of events, while applying law to fact. See Initial Decision at 2-11. Specifically, the ALJ found that, despite notifications by the Agency, Petitioner had failed to provide all requested documentation to the Agency required for it to assess her eligibility for SNAP benefits, without good cause. *Ibid.*; see also Exhibits R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4, and P-1 through P-7. In order to determine eligibility for SNAP benefits, mandatory verification of certain information is required. 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.* Following presentation of testimonial and documentary evidence in this case, the ALJ concluded that, although the Agency was delayed in its processing of Petitioner's application, 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 11; 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 SNAP benefits, if she has not already done so, but is advised that she must provide the Agency with all requested/required documentation. See N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.14, -2.19.

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



Officially approved final version.

February 13, 2025

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Natasha Johnson

Assistant Commissioner

