



## State of New Jersey

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*Governor*

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DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
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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 **12902-25 E.R.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **S781227009 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits, contending that Petitioner failed to provide the Agency with required income verification in a timely manner pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.27. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a fair hearing. On September 15, 2025 the Honorable Mumtaz Bari-Brown, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On October 6, 2025 the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, reversing the Agency's determination.

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 MODIFY the ALJ's Initial Decision, REVERSE the Agency's determination, and REMAND the matter to the Agency, based on the discussion below.

Here, the record reveals that Petitioner applied for SNAP benefits on May 22, 2025, and on that same date, the Agency sent Petitioner a Request for Verification seeking paystubs for the period of April 22, 2025 to May 22, 2025 from her employer. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1. On June 24, 2025 the Agency denied Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits, on the basis that she had failed to provide verification of her income. See Initial Decision at 2. At the time of the hearing, Petitioner testified that she received the Agency's Request for Verification on May 30, 2025, and returned the requested paystubs on the following day, May 31, 2025, via regular mail. Ibid.; see also Exhibit P-1. Additionally, Petitioner provided confirmation that she faxed the requested paystubs to the Agency on June 23, 2025. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit P-1.

Based upon the credible testimonial and documentary evidence presented, the ALJ found that Petitioner had submitted the documentation requested to the Agency on several occasions which would have allowed the Agency to process her SNAP application. See Initial Decision at 3. Accordingly, the ALJ reversed the Agency's denial. See Initial Decision at 4. I agree with the ALJ's ultimate conclusion, and therefore am remanding this matter back to the Agency. The Agency shall expedite the substantive evaluation of Petitioner's May 22, 2025 application for SNAP benefits, together with the paystub documentation submitted. Based on that evaluation, if Petitioner is determined to be eligible for SNAP benefits, Petitioner is to then be provided with retroactive SNAP benefits to May 22, 2025, the date of application. See N.J.A.C. 10:87-8.18. Should the substantive evaluation result in another denial of SNAP benefits, Petitioner may request another fair hearing on that substantive denial. The Initial Decision is modified to reflect these findings.



Accordingly, the Initial Decision is hereby MODIFIED, the Agency's determination is REVERSED and the matter is REMANDED to the Agency for action, as outlined above.

Officially approved final version. November 06, 2025

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

