



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
PO BOX 716

SARAH ADELMAN
Commissioner

TAHESHA L. WAY
Lt. Governor

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 17495-24 H.C.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C163915015 (OCEAN COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. 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 for failure to provide earned income information necessary to determine eligibility. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for a hearing. On February 11, 2025, the Honorable Advia Knight Foster, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On February 21, 2025, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

Here, Petitioner applied for SNAP benefits on September 12, 2024, and thereafter, on September 19, 2024, the Agency requested Petitioner provide income verification for the previous twelve months or verification that she was no longer employed, including her last day worked and income for September 2024. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibits R-1, R-3, R-4. On October 15, 2024, the Agency issued a denial notice to Petitioner, as the deadline for submission of the requested information, necessary to establish benefit eligibility, had lapsed and Petitioner had not supplied the requested information. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-1. The ALJ found that the Petitioner failed to provide the Agency with the required documentation necessary to determine Petitioner's eligibility for SNAP benefits, and accordingly, concluded that the Agency's denial of Petitioner's application for said benefits was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.14, -2.15, -2.19, -2.20, -2.21, -2.22. 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 is advised that she must provide all documentation necessary 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. March 05, 2025

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

