



## State of New Jersey

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*Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
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 **03476-25 J.J.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C280998020 (UNION COUNTY DIVISION 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 April 10, 2025, the Honorable Mumtaz Bari-Brown, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On May 1, 2025, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

Here, Petitioner applied for SNAP benefits on October 15, 2024, and, on that same date, the Agency requested, via a Request for Verification Form, that Petitioner provide proofs of income, proof of unemployment benefits paid from New York, and a current lease or rent receipt. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1. On October 25, 2024, the Agency received rent receipts and unemployment income history from New York, as well as a handwritten letter from one of Petitioner's home-service nail clients. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1. On January 15, 2025, the Agency issued a denial notice to Petitioner, as the deadline for submission of her requested income verifications, necessary to establish benefit eligibility, had lapsed and Petitioner had not supplied the requested information. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1. Specifically, the Agency noted that Petitioner failed to provide any documentation from her home cleaning business or any additional home-service nail clients. Ibid. Petitioner testified that she requested information from her clients, but that she was unable to control their refusal to respond with the requested verifications. 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. 10:87-2.19, -2.20. Without said verification of required information, SNAP eligibility cannot be determined or granted. Ibid. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ found that Petitioner had 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. Id. at 5; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.11, -2.14, -2.15, -2.16, -2.19, -2.20, -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 application 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. May 21, 2025

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

