



## 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 **17310-24 M.F.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C032210003 (BURLINGTON COUNTY BD. 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 6, 2025, the Honorable Jacob S. Gertsman, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On February 13, 2025, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

Here, Petitioner applied for SNAP benefits on December 29, 2023, and thereafter, on January 8, 2024, the Agency requested Petitioner provide consecutive paystubs for the previous thirty days with gross income amounts. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1. On January 29, 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; see also Exhibit R-1. Also on January 29, 2024, Petitioner provided the Agency with bank statements which reflected some of her income, and on March 6, 2024, she submitted a handwritten statement detailing her income, however, her statement did not specify the hours worked and included no pay stubs or payment statement from her employer. See Initial Decision at 2-3. Following a reevaluation including the submitted documentation, the Agency denied her SNAP application due to insufficient verification of her earned income. Ibid. On November 14, 2024, the Agency issued an additional denial notice to Petitioner for failure to provide verification of her employment and earned income. Id. at 3. The Agency did provide Petitioner with an additional thirty days to submit the last three consecutive months of pay statements as verification of Petitioner's earned income, however, Petitioner did not provide the requested information to the Agency. Ibid. 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 4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.11, -2.14, -2.15, -2.16, -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

