



## State of New Jersey

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*Governor*

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DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
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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 15681-24 N.B.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C325392007 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of her application for Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits, contending that Petitioner had failed to provide information and documentation necessary to determine eligibility and because Petitioner's household income exceeded the maximum permissible level for receipt of said benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for a hearing. On February 13, 2025, the Honorable Mumtaz Bari-Brown, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents. On February 19, 2025, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Development ("DFD"), Department of Human Services, I have considered the ALJ's Initial Decision, and following an independent review of the record, the ALJ's Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED and the Agency determination is AFFIRMED, based on the discussion below.

In order to determine eligibility for SNAP benefits, mandatory verification of certain information is required, such as household income, which includes both earned and unearned income. See N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19, -2.20. Without verification of required information, SNAP eligibility cannot be determined or granted. *Ibid*.

Here, the record reveals that Petitioner applied for SNAP benefits on August 2, 2024, on behalf of her household of two and reported income of \$164 per week. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1. Petitioner informed the Agency that she was on leave and returning to work on August 28, 2024. See Initial Decision at 2. The Agency sent Petitioner a request for verifications, asking her to provide two paystubs dated thirty days prior to the date of her SNAP application, proof of her dates of leave from her employer, a utility bill, and rent receipts. *Id.* at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-1. Petitioner did not submit the requested verifications, and the Agency determined, through a systems database report, that Petitioner had received income in excess of the gross maximum eligibility amount of \$3,041 for a household of two people. See Initial Decision at 3; see also DFD Instruction 23-09-01 at 13. Thereafter, Petitioner's SNAP application was denied effective October 4, 2024. See Exhibit R-1. Following presentation of testimonial and documentary evidence in this case, the ALJ concluded 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 7; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19, -2.20. I agree. Further, the ALJ concluded that the information obtained by the Agency to verify Petitioner's income evidenced that her household income exceeded the gross maximum eligibility amount for receipt of SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision at 7; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-6.16(b)(1). I also agree.



By way of comment, Petitioner is without prejudice to reapply for SNAP benefits, should her circumstances change, but must timely provide all information and documentation requested in order 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

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

