



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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SARAH ADELMAN
Commissioner

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Lt. Governor

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 **08940-25 P.H.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C161481020 (UNION COUNTY DIVISION OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner challenges the Respondent Agency's calculation of the amount of her Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. Petitioner contends that the Agency should have considered whether she is entitled to retroactive benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On July 14, 2025, the Honorable Leslie Z. Celentano, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents into evidence. On July 23, 2025, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination that Petitioner is not entitled to retroactive SNAP benefits.

Here, the record reflects that Petitioner applied for SNAP benefits on January 27, 2025. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1. On February 10, 2025, the Agency advised Petitioner of an upcoming interview and informed her of information she would need to have, or make available to the Agency, in order for an eligibility determination to be made regarding SNAP benefits. Ibid. Following the Agency interview on February 28, 2025, having not received all of the verifications requested from Petitioner, the Agency issued a Notice of Denial on March 12, 2025. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-1. Specifically, the Agency was unable to determine Petitioner's income, as the paystubs provided by Petitioner contained no hours or rate of pay. Ibid. On April 10, 2025, the Agency received a letter from Petitioner's employer setting forth her rate of pay and hours worked. Ibid. On that same date, the Agency received proof of Petitioner's address with the submission of a copy of Petitioner's lease. Ibid. On April 10, 2025, Petitioner was approved for SNAP benefits, and benefits were provided in the amount of \$358 for April 2025 (from the date of the application approval to April 30, 2025), and thereafter monthly in the amount of \$512 beginning May 1, 2025. Ibid.

Based on the record presented, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had not demonstrated that she is entitled to retroactive benefits, as information contained on her SNAP benefits application must be verified, and such verifications were not received by the Agency until April 10, 2025, at which time her benefits were approved. See Initial Decision at 5; see also Exhibit R-1, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19. I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.

As the Assistant Commissioner of the 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 hereby ADOPT the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision in this matter is hereby ADOPTED and the Agency determination is AFFIRMED.



Officially approved final version. August 27, 2025

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

