



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 15328-24 R.C.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C482245004 (CAMDEN-CCBSS)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of his application for Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits because Petitioner is an ineligible college student. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On January 8, 2025, the Honorable William T. Cooper III, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On January 22, 2025, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reveals that Petitioner applied for SNAP benefits on August 29, 2024. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 16. The record further shows that Petitioner is a student at Camden County College, and is not receiving federal work study or employed twenty hours a week. See Initial Decision at 2. Petitioner had previously been employed; however, he underwent a medical procedure on July 30, 2024, and was required to take medical leave from his employer. *Ibid.*; see also Exhibit R-1 at 9. On September 25, 2024, the Agency notified Petitioner that his application for SNAP benefits was denied because Petitioner is an ineligible college student and does not meet the definition of a disabled household member under the SNAP regulations. See Initial Decision at 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87- 2.34, -3.14(d) and Division of Family Development Instruction No. 19-01-06. The ALJ in this matter found that Petitioner could provide no evidence that he meets the regulatory criteria for receipt of SNAP benefits, and therefore, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of SNAP benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 4. 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, should his circumstances change.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED, and the Agency's determination is AFFIRMED.

Officially approved final version. February 20, 2025



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Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

