



## 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 15633-25 S.H.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C052871006 (CUMBERLAND COUNTY BD OF SOC SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits at recertification. The Agency terminated Petitioner's SNAP benefits at recertification, contending that she failed to provide verifications as requested and required to determine her eligibility for continued SNAP benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for a hearing. On October 22, 2025, the Honorable Rebecca C. Lafferty, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing (Petitioner appeared in person), took testimony and admitted documents. On October 27, 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.

Here, the record reveals that Petitioner's SNAP case was due for recertification, and the Agency notified Petitioner via a Notice of Expiration of NJ SNAP benefits on June 2, 2025, that her recertification period would end on July 31, 2025. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-8. Further, the Agency informed Petitioner that she was scheduled for a recertification interview on June 12, 2025, however, on that date, telephone calls to Petitioner to conduct the interview were unsuccessful. Ibid.; see also Exhibits R-8, R-11. On that same date, the Agency sent Petitioner a Notice of Missed Interview. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-10. On July 25, 2025, Petitioner contacted the Agency and a recertification telephone interview was conducted, which led to the Agency issuing, on that same date, a Request for Verification form requesting specific documentation by August 4, 2025. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-12. Petitioner did not submit the requested documentation until August 12, 2025, after her SNAP case had been closed, and the Agency informed Petitioner that she would have to submit a new application for SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-2. Thereafter, on August 29, 2025, Petitioner submitted a new application for SNAP benefits, and was approved for pro-rated benefits in the amount of \$61 for August 2025 and monthly benefits in the amount of \$925 beginning September 2025. See Initial Decision at 4. Petitioner testified that she is seeking the balance of SNAP benefits for August 2025. Ibid. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency correctly closed Petitioner's SNAP benefits case at recertification. See Initial Decision at 2, 4-5; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-9.1 et seq. I agree.

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



Officially approved final version. November 10, 2025

---

Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

