



State of New Jersey

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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 **02464-26 A.B.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C139125007 (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. Thereafter, because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for a hearing. On March 5, 2026, the Honorable Mumtaz Bari-Brown, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents. On March 25, 2026, 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, Department of Human Services, I have considered the ALJ's Initial Decision, and following an independent review of the record, I hereby ADOPT the Initial Decision and AFFIRM the Agency's determination, based on the discussion below.

Based on the record presented, Petitioner applied for SNAP benefits on November 7, 2025. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1. At that time, Petitioner stated that she was employed, received Retirement, Survivors, and Disability Insurance ("RSDI") benefits monthly, and received child support weekly. Ibid. On November 13, 2025, the Agency sent Petitioner a Request for Verification Form requesting information, including copies of paystubs, a utility bill, and a payment history of child support, which was due to the Agency by November 24, 2025. Ibid. Petitioner failed to submit any documentation by the deadline and on December 8, 2025, the Agency determined Petitioner was ineligible for SNAP benefits and issued a denial letter. Ibid.

On December 9, 2025, paystubs were uploaded to the Agency, as well as a utility bill. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1. On January 28, 2026, an additional paystub was uploaded. Ibid. On January 29, 2026, the child support ledger was received by the Agency. Ibid.

In order to determine eligibility for SNAP benefits, mandatory verification of certain information is required, such as household income, both earned and unearned income. See N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.14, -2.19, -2.20. Without said verification of required information, SNAP eligibility cannot be determined or granted. Ibid. In the present matter, Petitioner did not submit all the requested information until more than thirty days after the request from the Agency, and more than sixty days after the filing of her application for benefits. See Initial Decision at 5; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.27. Following presentation of testimonial and documentary evidence in this case, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had not timely



provided the requested information required to determine eligibility, and as such, the Agency's denial of SNAP benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 2-6; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.14. I agree.

By way of comment, Petitioner is without prejudice to reapply for SNAP benefits, if she has not already done so, 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 application 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. April 15, 2026

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

