



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 **18766-25 M.M.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **S599315012 (MIDDLESEX COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's reduction of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits at recertification. The Agency reduced Petitioner's SNAP benefits at recertification, contending that she failed to accurately complete the recertification application, which was relied upon in determining the amount of her SNAP benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for a hearing. On February 26, 2026, the Honorable Jeffrey N. Rabin, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents. On March 11, 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 ("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 Petitioner completed a telephone recertification interview on June 27, 2025. See Initial Decision at 2. Following the interview, the Agency sent Petitioner a copy of the recertification application, for her review and signature, which was executed on July 7, 2026. *Ibid.*; see also Exhibit R-1. The recertification application did not indicate that Petitioner had any child care expenses. *Ibid.* On July 28, 2025, the Agency advised Petitioner that her SNAP benefits would be reduced to \$208 per month. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibits R-2, R-3. Petitioner contacted the Agency and on August 15, 2025, her application was corrected to indicate that she incurred monthly child care expenses and the Agency performed a recalculation of benefits, which amount would be effective September 1, 2025. See Initial Decision at 2. Petitioner testified, at the time of the hearing, that she was told she would receive retroactive benefits for the month of August, 2025. See Initial Decision at 2-3.

Based on the record presented, the ALJ concluded that the Agency correctly recalculated Petitioner's SNAP benefits case at recertification, for August, 2025, based on the information contained in the recertification application and correctly amended the SNAP benefit amount upon receipt of information and verification of child care expenses which impacted the SNAP benefit amount beginning September, 2025. See Initial Decision at 2, 3-4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-9.1 et seq. I agree and note that Petitioner had not demonstrated that she is entitled to retroactive benefits, as information contained on her SNAP benefits recertification application must be verified, and such verifications were not received by the Agency until August 15, 2025, which impacted the next benefit allotment issued September 1, 2025. See N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19.



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

Officially approved final version. April 09, 2026

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

