



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 **06241-24 R.F.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C134590008 (GLOUCESTER COUNTY DIV. OF SOC. SVCS.)**

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, contending that Petitioner had failed to provide information and documentation necessary to determine eligibility. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On June 14, 2024, the Honorable Tama B. Hughes, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, admitted documents, and the record closed on that date.

On June 26, 2024, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reveals that Petitioner filed an application for SNAP benefits on March 4, 2024. See Initial Decision at 5. Petitioner failed to provide information within the application as to income, both earned and unearned, shelter expenses, identity, and residency and further did not submit required documents, specifically as to his indicating on the application that Petitioner and his partner were not United States citizens. *Ibid.*; see also Exhibit R-1 at pages 3-4, 7. On March 4, 2024, the Agency sent a Request for Verification to Petitioner requesting further information and documentation, to be returned by March 29, 2024, regarding income verification, shelter expenses, identity information, residency information, and an alien registration card and birth verification. *Ibid.*; see also Exhibit R-1 at page 14. Petitioner acknowledged receipt of the Request for Verification but did not provide the responsive information or documentation to the Agency as required. *Ibid.* On April 4, 2024, Petitioner's application for SNAP benefits was denied for failure to provide the required documentation in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.14. See Initial Decision at 6; see also Exhibit R-1 at page 15.

In order to determine eligibility for SNAP benefits, mandatory verification of certain information is required. 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.* Following presentation of testimonial and documentary evidence in this case, the ALJ found the Agency's evidence credible, and no documentation to substantiate Petitioner's assertions as to why the requested information was not submitted to the Agency, had been presented. See Initial Decision at 6-7. Further, the ALJ found that the information that was presented to the Agency by Petitioner was unresponsive to the Agency's requests. *Ibid.* Based on the foregoing, the ALJ therefore concluded that Petitioner had not provided the requested information and documentation required to be verified to determine eligibility, and as such, the Agency's denial of SNAP benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 10; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.14, -2.19, -2.20. 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, if he has not already done so, but must provide all information and documentation requested in order to determine eligibility.

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

Officially approved final version. July 31, 2024

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

