



This matter arises from the Union County Division of Social Services' (Union County) August 31, 2023 denial of Petitioner's Medicaid application for failure to provide information necessary to determine eligibility. The issue presented here is whether Petitioner timely provided the necessary verification for Union County to make an eligibility determination.

Both the County Welfare Agency (CWA) and the applicant have responsibilities with regard to the application process. N.J.A.C. 10:71-2.2. An applicant must complete any forms required by the CWA; assist the CWA in securing evidence that corroborates his or her statements; and promptly report any change affecting his or her circumstance. N.J.A.C. 10:71-2.2 (e). The CWA exercises direct responsibility in the application process to inform applicants about the process, eligibility requirements and their right to a fair hearing; receive applications; assist applicants in exploring their eligibility; make known the appropriate resources and services; assure the prompt accurate submission of data; and promptly notify applicants of eligibility or ineligibility. N.J.A.C. 10:72-2.2 (c) and (d). The CWA must determine eligibility of an application for the aged in 45 days and for blind and disabled applicants within 90 days. N.J.A.C. 10:71-2.3(a); MedComm No.10-09, and 42 CFR 435.91. Medicaid Communication No. 10-09 states:

If additional verifications are needed and the applicant or their representative does not respond to the worker's request after a time period, as specified by the Agency, an additional request for information must be sent informing the applicant of what documentation is still needed in order to determine their eligibility. This letter will also inform the applicant or their representative that if the information is not received within the specified time period from the receipt of the request, the case will be denied.

Here, on June 30, 2023, Petitioner, through their Designated Authorized Representative (DAR), applied for Medicaid benefits with Union County. (R-1). On July 20, 2023, Union County sent a request for information (RFI) asking for Petitioner's

husband's 2023 Direct Express account statements. (R-3). Petitioner provided transaction summaries that did not include the monthly account balances. (R-2). By letter dated August 11, 2023, Union County again sent an RFI for the same information and requested this information be submitted by August 25, 2023. (R-4). On August 31, 2023, Union County denied Petitioner's Medicaid application due to failure to provide Petitioner's husband's Direct Express monthly account statements from January 1, 2023 to the present. (R-5).

The Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) found that the denial was appropriate. Despite the requests for information, Petitioner failed to timely provide the information necessary to make a determination on their Medicaid application. I concur with the Initial Decision's findings that the requested information was not produced which prevented Union County from making an eligibility determination.

Union County requested Petitioner provide Petitioner's husband's Direct Express account statements from January 1, 2023 to the present to determine Petitioner's collective resources. The RFI stated that the requested documentation needed to be provided by August 25, 2023. (R-4). Petitioner's DAR failed to provide the requested information before August 25, 2023. When verification was not provided, Union County denied Petitioner's June 30, 2023 application.

Based on the record before me, I hereby ADOPT the Initial Decision in its entirety and incorporate the same herein by reference. Petitioner's DAR has presented no evidence that they had provided the Direct Express' monthly statements to Union County at the time of the denial. Petitioner's DAR did not request an extension during the application review process to provide the requested information. Without this information, Union County was unable to complete Petitioner's eligibility determination and the denial was appropriate.

THEREFORE, it is on this 14th day of MAY 2024,

ORDERED:

That the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED.

*Gregory Woods*

OBO JLJ

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Jennifer Langer Jacobs, Assistant Commissioner  
Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services