

As Assistant Commissioner for the Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (DMAHS), I have reviewed the record in this case, including the Initial Decision and the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) case file. No exceptions were filed in this matter. Procedurally, the time period for the Agency Head to render a Final Agency Decision is July 21, 2025.

This matter arises from the June 20, 2023, denial of Petitioner's New Jersey FamilyCare Aged, Blind, Disabled application due to the failure to provide information that was necessary to determine eligibility. The Initial Decision affirmed the denial finding that Petitioner failed to provide the requested verifications in a timely manner. Based upon my review of the record, I hereby ADOPT the findings and conclusions of the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) holding that Petitioner failed to timely comply with producing evidence to corroborate program eligibility.

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. Applicants 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 circumstances. 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. 10:71-2.2(c) and (d). CWAs must determine eligibility for Aged cases within 45 days and Blind and Disabled cases within 90 days. N.J.A.C. 10:71-2.3(a) and 42 CFR § 435.912. The time frame may be extended when documented exceptional circumstances arise preventing the processing of the application within the prescribed time limits. N.J.A.C. 10:71-2.3(c). The regulations do not require that the CWA grant an extension beyond the designated time period when the delay is due to circumstances outside the control of both the applicant and the CWA. At best, the extension is permissible. N.J.A.C. 10:71-2.3; S.D. v. DMAHS

and Bergen County Board of Social Services, No. A-5911-10 (App. Div. February 22, 2013).

On April 6, 2023, Petitioner's Designated Authorized Representative (DAR) submitted an application for New Jersey FamilyCare under the Aged, Blind, Disabled (ABD) program to the Middlesex County Board of Social Services (Middlesex County). (R-1). On May 31, 2023, Middlesex County issued a Request for Information seeking documentation necessary to determine Petitioner's eligibility. Specifically, Petitioner was asked to provide verification of four deposits into a Bank of America account ending in 9688: (1) two separate deposits of \$10,000 each on November 3, 2022; (2) a deposit of \$727 on April 20, 2018; and (3) a deposit of \$777 in April 2019. (R-2). The requested documentation was initially due by June 14, 2023. Upon request, the deadline was extended to June 24, 2023. Petitioner did not submit the required verifications by the extended June 24, 2023, deadline and instead provided the requested information in September 2023 in connection with a subsequent application. (ID at 2). As a result, Middlesex County issued a denial of the application for failure to provide information necessary to establish eligibility.

I agree with the ALJ's findings that Petitioner failed to timely provide required documentation, and no exceptional circumstances were found to justify a further extension. Consequently, Petitioner's Medicaid application was appropriately denied.

Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, I hereby ADOPT the Initial Decision and FIND that Middlesex County's denial of Petitioner's application was appropriate in this matter.

THEREFORE, it is on this 17th day of JULY 2025,

ORDERED:

That the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED.

Gregory Woods

Gregory Woods, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services