



State of New Jersey

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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 4634-17 W.M.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C376231007 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals the Agency's denial of Petitioner's application for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits on recertification. The Agency denied Petitioner SNAP benefits on recertification due to Petitioner's failure to provide proof that she attended the required Able Bodied Adult Without Dependent's ("ABAWD") work activity. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On April 25, 2017, the Honorable Mumtaz Bari-Brown Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ") held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents.

On May 11, 2017, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, Petitioner was approved for SNAP benefits on March 2, 2017, but seeks back benefits from December 2016 through February 2017. See Initial Decision at 1-2. The Agency testified that Petitioner submitted her requisite paperwork on February 24, 2017, and her application was subsequently approved on March 2, 2017. *Id.* at 2. Petitioner testified that she submitted all her paperwork in July 2016, but was then provided an additional packet from the Agency in September 2016, which she was required to complete. *Ibid.* Thereafter, the Agency required that Petitioner provide a prescription in order to receive a MED-1 form, which would provide the requisite proof for her exemption from the work requirement. *Ibid.* Petitioner then testified that she returned to the Agency with the prescription in November 2016, was told her case was processed, and therefore believed she was entitled to benefits beginning in December 2016. *Ibid.* However, the ALJ determined that, based on the record presented, the Petitioner's testimony was not credible that her case was in fact approved prior to February 24, 2017, and concluded that Petitioner was properly denied SNAP benefits on November 17, 2016, and did not become eligible again for benefits until all the relevant paperwork was provided on February 24, 2017. *Id.* at 4. I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed by either party.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have considered the record in this matter and the ALJ's Initial Decision and I concur with the ALJ's decision and hereby adopt the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law in this matter.



Accordingly, the Initial Decision in this matter is ADOPTED and the Agency's actions are hereby AFFIRMED.

Officially approved final version.

MAY 25 2017

Natasha Johnson

Director

