



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development
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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 12896-15 B.W.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C031472 (OCEAN COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of his application for continued Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP"), *f/k/a* the Food Stamp Program, benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's application for continued SNAP benefits as it contended that Petitioner household's countable income exceeded the maximum permissible income level for receipt of benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On October 6, 2015, the Honorable Joseph A. Ascione, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents into evidence.

On October 20, 2015, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Based on a review of the record, Petitioner's household unit consists of Petitioner, her husband, and their two children. See Initial Decision at 3. Petitioner's monthly household income equals \$4,429.00, which includes \$1,427.00 in earned income and \$3,002.00 in Retirement, Survivors and Disability Insurance ("RSDI"). *Id.* at 2; see also Exhibit R-2. The maximum allowable gross income for a household of four is \$2,584.00. See Division of Family Development ("DFD") Instruction 14-08-03. Consequently, I agree with the ALJ's conclusion that Petitioner's income is above the maximum permitted for a household of four and, therefore, Petitioner's application for continued SNAP benefits was properly denied. See Initial Decision at 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-12.3.

No Exceptions to this Initial Decision were filed.

As the Director of the DFD, 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 decision and hereby adopt the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law in this matter.

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

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

OCT 28 2015

Natasha Johnson
Director