



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development
P.O. Box 716
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

Chris Christie
Governor

Kim Guadagno
Lt. Governor

Elizabeth Connolly
Acting Commissioner

Natasha Johnson
Director
Tel. (609) 588-2400

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 13530-15 G.P.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C031808 (SALEM COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner challenges the correctness of Respondent Agency's reduction of her Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP"), f/k/a the Food Stamp Program, benefits. The Agency reduced Petitioner's SNAP benefits due to an increase in earned income. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On October 5, 2015, the Honorable Bruce M. Gorman, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents into evidence. The record remained open until October 13, 2015, at which time the record closed.

On November 2, 2015, the ALJ issued his Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Based upon a routine recertification, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner's average monthly income was \$1130.00, which thereby reduced Petitioner's SNAP benefits to \$116 from \$122. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1. However, when Petitioner objected that the Agency used overtime to reach its calculation, it readjusted the benefit calculation to \$122.00. See Initial Decision at 2. Consequently, the ALJ found that the Agency's recalculation of SNAP at \$122.00 monthly was correct. See *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 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 Conclusions of Law in this matter.

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

NOV 13 2015

Signed Copy on File

at DFD, BARA

Natasha Johnson
Director