



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 16375-15 L.S.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C072687 (GLOUCESTER COUNTY DIV. OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner challenges the correctness of Respondent Agency's calculation of her Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP"), f/k/a the Food Stamp Program, benefits on recertification. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On November 6, 2015, the Honorable W. Todd Miller, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents into evidence.

On November 10, 2015, the ALJ issued his Initial Decision which affirmed the Agency's calculation of Petitioner's benefits. The ALJ noted that Petitioner believed she was entitled to \$198.60 per month in SNAP benefits, based on her personal calculations submitted during the hearing. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit P-1. However, the ALJ also noted that Petitioner's own calculations, after utilizing the State's website, also reached the same result of \$71.60 that the Agency did in its original calculation, but which did not take into account the additional cost of Petitioner's rental insurance. Ibid; see also Exhibit R-1. Consequently, the ALJ concluded that the computer generated and manual calculations submitted by the Agency correctly determined that Petitioner was actually entitled to \$77.00 in monthly SNAP benefits when the rental insurance was included in the shelter cost total. See Initial Decision at 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-6.16.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have reviewed the Initial Decision and having made an independent review of the record in this matter, I hereby adopt the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in this matter.

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

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

NOV 20 2015

Natasha Johnson
Director