

The issue presented here is whether Petitioner provided the necessary verifications for the MCBSS to make an eligibility determination. On December 20, 2019, Petitioner, through her representative, applied for Medicaid benefits. On January 28, February 3, March 11 and June 29, 2020, MCBSS requested that Petitioner provide information necessary to determine eligibility. The June 29, 2020 request included a due date of July 13, 2020. Petitioner failed to completely respond to the request by that date. Thereafter, a letter was drafted and signed by an MCBSS supervisor on July 21, 2020. On that same day, Petitioner provided additional documentation in response to MCBSS' request. However, the response was still incomplete. Without this information, MCBSS was unable to complete its eligibility determination and the denial was appropriate.

Additionally, County Welfare Agencies (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); MedCom No. 10-09, and Fed. Reg. 42 CFR 435.91. Petitioner's application had been held open, awaiting additional information, for over 200 days. There is nothing in the record to support a finding that additional time to respond was requested or that exceptional circumstances warranted an extension of the due date.

Based on my review of the record, I concur with the ALJ's findings and hereby ADOPT the Initial Decision.

THEREFORE, it is on this 9th day of FEBRUARY 2021,

ORDERED:

That the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED.



Jennifer Langer Jacobs, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Medical Assistance
And Health Services