

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL, REGULATIONS, AND ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS  
55 FARMINGTON AVENUE  
HARTFORD, CT 06105

■■■■ 2023  
Signature Confirmation

Case ID ■■■■  
Client ID ■■■■  
Request # 214661

**NOTICE OF DECISION**

**PARTY**

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**PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND**

On ■■■■ ■■■■ 2023, the Department issued ■■■■ ■■■■ (the “Appellant”) a notice verifying her eligibility for benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (“SNAP”) as 23.00 per month for the benefit period ■■■■ ■■■■ 2023 through ■■■■ ■■■■ 2024.

On ■■■■ ■■■■ 2023, the Appellant requested an administrative hearing to contest the Department’s calculation of her SNAP benefits.

On ■■■■ ■■■■ 2023, the Office of Legal Counsel, Regulations, and Administrative Hearings (“OLCRAH”) issued a notice scheduling the administrative hearing for ■■■■ ■■■■ 2023.

On ■■■■ ■■■■ 2023, the Appellant requested a continuance which OLCRAH granted.

On ■■■■ ■■■■ 2023, the OLCRAH issued a notice scheduling the administrative hearing for ■■■■ ■■■■ 2023.

On ■■■■ ■■■■ 2023, in accordance with sections 17b-60, 17b-61, and 4-176e to 4-189, inclusive of the Connecticut General Statutes, OLCRAH held an administrative hearing via telephone at the Appellant’s request.

The following individuals called in for the hearing:

■■■■ ■■■■ Appellant  
Shannon Shlash, Department Representative  
Lisa Nyren, Hearing Officer

## STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE

The issue to be decided is whether the Department's calculation of the Appellant's SNAP benefits as \$23.00 per month is correct.

## FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Appellant receives SNAP benefits for a household of one: the Appellant. (Hearing Record)
2. The Appellant is [REDACTED] years old. (Appellant Testimony)
3. The Appellant's receives Social Security ("SSA") benefits of \$476.00 per month. (Stipulated)
4. The Appellant receives Veteran's Administration ("VA") benefits of \$311.00 per month. (Stipulated)
5. The Appellant receives an annuity of \$1,282.00 per month. (Stipulated)
6. The Appellant pays \$221.00 per month for rent. (Stipulated)
7. The Appellant has medical coverage with Blue Cross Blue Shield ("BCBS") for which the monthly premium of \$253.30 is deducted from her annuity monthly. (Stipulated)
8. The Appellant has medical coverage under Medicare Part A for which she does not pay a premium. (Stipulated)
9. The Appellant has medical coverage with the VA which covers her prescription costs. (Appellant's Testimony)
10. The Department determined the Appellant eligible for the standard deduction of \$193.00 per month. (Department Representative's Testimony)
11. The Appellant received the standard utility allowance ("SUA") of \$921.00 under the SNAP. (Department Representative's Testimony)
12. The Department determined the Appellant's total shelter costs as \$1,142.00. \$221.00 rent + \$921.00 SUA = \$1,142.00. (Department Representative's Testimony)
13. The Department determined the Appellant eligible for a shelter deduction equaling \$196.00. (Department Representative's Testimony)
14. The maximum monthly SNAP allotment for a household of one equals \$281.00 for a household with no source of income. (Department Representative's Testimony)

15. The Department determined the Appellant eligible for \$23.00 per month under the SNAP. (Exhibit 1: Verification of Benefits and Exhibit 2: Notice of Action)
16. On [REDACTED] [REDACTED] 2023, the Appellant contacted OLCRAH via telephone to request an administrative hearing regarding her benefits under the SNAP. (Hearing Record)
17. On [REDACTED] [REDACTED] 2023, the Appellant reported to the Department the following changes: an increase in her 2023 monthly annuity to \$1,298.00, an increase in her BCBS monthly premium, and an increase in VA benefits. (Hearing Summary, Exhibit 2: Request for Proofs, and Exhibit 3: Notice of Action)
18. On [REDACTED] [REDACTED] 2023, the Department issued the Appellant a Request for Proofs form requesting proof of the 2023 monthly annuity, proof of BCBS 2023 premium, and proof of 2023 VA benefit. (Exhibit 2: Request for Proofs)
19. At the administrative hearing, the Appellant reported she pays \$196.00 per month to [REDACTED] for electricity. The Appellant pays for cable with [REDACTED] monthly. The Appellant qualified for \$600.00 energy assistance this past winter which was applied to her [REDACTED] bill. The Appellant applied for hardship benefits with [REDACTED] to keep her electricity on and is waiting for approval. (Appellant's Testimony)
20. At the administrative hearing, the Appellant reported she owed over \$11,000 to the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") for failure to file taxes. She pays \$25.00 per week to the IRS to settle this debt. (Appellant's Testimony)
21. At the administrative hearing, the Appellant reported she pays for dental insurance of \$56.90 per month under her [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (Appellant's Testimony)
22. The Department was not aware of the Appellant's monthly dental insurance premium of \$56.90 monthly. (Department Representative's Testimony)
23. The issuance of this decision is timely under Title 7 Section 273.15(c) of the Code of Federal Regulations, which requires that a decision be issued within 60 days of the request for an administrative hearing. The Appellant requested an administrative hearing on [REDACTED] [REDACTED] 2023. However, the hearing, which was originally scheduled for [REDACTED] [REDACTED] 2023 was rescheduled to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] 2023, at the request of the Appellant, which caused an [REDACTED]-day delay. Because this [REDACTED]-day delay resulted from the Appellant's request, this decision is not due until [REDACTED] [REDACTED] 2023, and therefore timely.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. Section 17b-2(7) of the Connecticut General Statutes ("Conn. Gen. Stats.") provides as follows:

The Department of Social Services is designated as the state agency for the administration of the supplemental nutrition assistance program pursuant to the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008.

2. Title 7 Section 273.1(a)(1) of the Code of Federal Regulations ("C.F.R.") provides as follows:

A household is composed of one of the following individuals or groups of individuals, unless otherwise specified in paragraph (b) of this section: An individual living alone.

**The Department correctly determined an assistance unit of one: the Appellant.**

3. "Definition of Income. Household income shall mean all income from whatever source excluding only items specified in paragraph (c) of this section." 7 C.F.R. § 273.9(b)

Federal regulation provides as follows:

Unearned income shall include but not be limited to: Annuities; pensions; retirement, veteran's, or disability benefits; worker's or unemployment compensation including any amounts deducted to repay claims for intentional program violations as provided in [§ 272.12](#); old-age, survivors, or social security benefits; strike benefits; foster care payments for children or adults who are considered members of the household; gross income minus the cost of doing business derived from rental property in which a household member is not actively engaged in the management of the property at least 20 hours a week.

7 C.F.R. § 273.9(b)(2)(ii)

**The Department correctly determined the Appellant's SSA income is counted in the calculation of SNAP benefits for the assistance unit.**

**The Department correctly determined the Appellant's VA benefit is counted in the calculation of SNAP benefits for the assistance unit.**

**The Department correctly determined the Appellant's annuity income is counted in the calculation of SNAP benefits for the assistance unit.**

4. Federal regulation provides as follows:

*Determining Income-Anticipating income.* For the purpose of determining the household's eligibility and level of benefits, the State agency shall take into account the income already received by the household during the certification period and any anticipated income the household and the State agency are reasonably certain will be received during the remainder of the certification period. If the amount of income that will be received, or when it will be received, is uncertain, that portion of the household's income that is uncertain shall not be counted by the State agency. For example, a household anticipating income from a new source, such as a new job or

recently applied for public assistance benefits, may be uncertain as to the timing and amount of the initial payment. These moneys shall not be anticipated by the State agency unless there is reasonable certainty concerning the month in which the payment will be received and in what amount. If the exact amount of the income is not known, that portion of it which can be anticipated with reasonable certainty shall be considered as income. In cases where the receipt of income is reasonably certain but the monthly amount may fluctuate, the household may elect to income average. Households shall be advised to report all changes in gross monthly income as required by §273.12.

7 C.F.R. § 273.10(c)(1)(i)

Federal regulation provides as follows:

*Income only in month received.* Income anticipated during the certification period shall be counted as income only in the month it is expected to be received, unless the income is averaged. Whenever a full month's income is anticipated but is received on a weekly or biweekly basis, the State agency shall convert the income to a monthly amount by multiplying weekly amounts by 4.3 and biweekly amounts by 2.15, use the State Agency's PA conversion standard, or use the exact monthly figure if it can be anticipated for each month of the certification period. Nonrecurring lump-sum payments shall be counted as a resource starting in the month received and shall not be counted as income.

7 C.F.R. § 273.10(c)(2)(i)

**The Department correctly determined the Appellant's gross SSA benefit as \$476.00 per month.**

**The Department correctly determined the Appellant's gross VA benefit as \$311.00 per month based on the information reported by the Appellant prior to her request for an administrative hearing.**

**The Department correctly determined the Appellant's gross annuity as \$1,282.00 per month based on the information reported by the Appellant prior to her request for an administrative hearing.**

5. Federal regulation provides as follows:

Participation in the Program shall be limited to those households whose incomes are determined to be a substantial limiting factor in permitting them to obtain a more nutritious diet. Households which contain an elderly or disabled member shall meet the net income eligibility standards for SNAP. Households which do not contain an elderly or disabled member shall meet both the net income eligibility standards and the gross income eligibility standards for SNAP. Households which are categorically eligible as defined in [§ 273.2\(j\)\(2\)](#) or [273.2\(j\)\(4\)](#) do not have to meet either the gross

or net income eligibility standards. The net and gross income eligibility standards shall be based on the Federal income poverty levels established as provided in section 673(2) of the Community Services Block Grant Act ([42 U.S.C. 9902\(2\)](#)).

7 C.F.R. § 273.9(a)

Federal regulation provides as follows:

Subject to FNS approval, any household (except those listed in [paragraph \(j\)\(2\)\(vii\)](#) of this section) in which all members receive or are authorized to receive non-cash or in-kind services from a program that is less than 50 percent funded with State money counted for MOE purposes under Title IV-A or Federal money under Title IV-A and that is designed to further purposes three and four of the TANF block grant, as set forth in Section 401 of [P.L 104–193](#), and requires participants to have a gross monthly income at or below 200 percent of the Federal poverty level.

7 C.F.R. § 273.2(j)(2)(ii)(B)

Department of Health and Human Services lists the 2022 Poverty Guidelines for the 48 Contiguous States and the District of Columbia for a household of one as \$13,590.00 annually. [Federal Register/Vol. 87, No. 14/Friday, January 21, 2022/Notices]

\$13,590.00 annually / 12 months = \$1,132.50 monthly FPL x 200% = \$2,265.00

**Under expanded categorical eligibility (“ECE”), the gross income limit for a household of one equals \$2,265.00 beginning October 1, 2022 or 200% of the Federal Poverty Limit (“FPL”). The Department correctly determined the Appellant’s gross monthly income \$2,069.00 falls below 200% of the FPL; therefore the Appellant is categorically eligible under ECE and not subject to the gross or net income limits. The changes in income reported by the Appellant do not affect the Appellant’s eligibility under ECE, her income remains below 200% for the FPL.**

**\$476.00 SSA + \$311.00 VA + \$1,282.00 annuity = \$2,069.00 total monthly income**

**Based on newly reported income by the Appellant, the Appellant’s monthly gross income falls below 200% of the FPL. Income change is pending verification by the Department.**

**\$476.00 SSA + 418.00 VA + \$1,298.00 annuity = \$2,192.00 total monthly income**

6. “Determining deductions. Deductible expenses include only certain dependent care, shelter, medical and, at State agency option, child support cost as described in § 273.9.” 7 C.F.R. § 273.10(d)

**Although newly reported to the Department at the administrative hearing, the weekly \$25.00 payments made by the Appellant to the IRS to satisfy her tax debt**

**is not an allowable deductible expense under the SNAP. Federal regulation does not allow for such a deduction.**

Federal regulation provides in pertinent part as follows:

Deductions shall be allowed only for the following household expenses:

*Standard deduction* – 48 States, District of Columbia, Alaska, Hawaii, and the Virgin Islands. Effective October 1, 2002, in the 48 States and the District of Columbia, Alaska, Hawaii, and the Virgin Islands, the standard deduction for household sizes one through six shall be equal to 8.31 percent of the monthly net income eligibility standard for each household size established under paragraph (a)(2) of this section rounded up to the nearest whole dollar. For household sizes greater than six, the standard deduction shall be equal to the standard deduction for a six-person household.

7 C.F.R. § 273.9(d)(1)(i)

For the period October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023, the standard deduction for the 48 States and DC for a household of one equals \$193.00. (United States Department of Agriculture (“USDA”), Food and Nutrition Service (“FNS”) Memorandum SNAP – Fiscal Year 2023 Cost-of-Living Adjustments, August 9, 2022)

**The Department correctly determined the standard deduction for a household of one under the SNAP as \$193.00 per month. Refer to Conclusion of Law (“COL”) # 9.**

*Excess medical deduction.* That portion of medical expenses in excess of \$35 per month, excluding special diets, incurred by any household member who is elderly or disabled as defined in [§ 271.2](#). Spouses or other persons receiving benefits as a dependent of the SSI or disability and blindness recipient are not eligible to receive this deduction but persons receiving emergency SSI benefits based on presumptive eligibility are eligible for this deduction. Allowable medical costs are:

- i. Medical and dental care including psychotherapy and rehabilitation services provided by a licenses practitioner authorized by State law or other qualified health professional.
- ii. Hospitalization or outpatient treatment, nursing care, and nursing home care including payments by the household for an individual who was a household member immediately prior to entering a hospital or nursing home provided by a facility recognized by the State.
- iii. Prescription drugs, when prescribed by a licensed practitioner authorized under State law, and other over-the-counter medication (including insulin), when approved by a licensed practitioner or other qualified health professional.

- iv. Health and hospitalization insurance policy premiums. The costs of health and accident policies such as those payable in lump sum settlements for death or dismemberment or income maintenance policies such as those that continue mortgage or loan payments while the beneficiary is disabled are not deductible;
- v. Medicare premiums related to coverage under Title XVIII of the Social Security Act; any cost-sharing or spend down expenses incurred by Medicaid recipients;
- vi. Dentures, hearing aids, and prosthetics;
- vii. Securing and maintaining a seeing eye or hearing dog including the cost of dog food and veterinarian bills;
- viii. Eyeglasses prescribed by a physician skilled in eye disease or by an optometrist;
- ix. Reasonable cost of transportation and lodging to obtain medical treatment or services;
- x. Maintaining an attendant, homemaker, home health aide, or childcare services, housekeeper, necessary due to age, infirmity, or illness. In addition, an amount equal to the one-person benefit allotment shall be deducted if the household furnishes the majority of the attendant's meals. The allotment for this meal related deduction shall be that in effect at the time of initial certification. The State agency is only required to update the allotment amount at the next scheduled recertification; however, at their option, the State agency may do so earlier. If a household incurs attendant care costs that could qualify under both the medical deduction of [§ 273.9\(d\)\(3\)\(x\)](#) and the dependent care deduction of [§ 273.9\(d\)\(4\)](#), the costs may be deducted as a medical expense or a dependent care expense, but not both.

7 C.F.R. § 273.9(d)(3)

Federal regulation provides in pertinent part:

*Anticipating expenses.* If the household voluntarily reports a change in its medical expenses, the State agency shall verify the change in accordance with [§ 273.2\(f\)\(8\)\(ii\)](#) if the change would increase the household's allotment. The State agency has the option of either requiring verification prior to acting on the change, or requiring the verification prior to the second normal monthly allotment after the change is reported.

7 C.F.R. § 273.10(d)(4)

Federal regulation provides as follows:

*Changes.* Changes reported during the certification period shall be subject to the same verification procedures as apply at initial certification, except that the State



agency shall not verify changes in income if the source has not changed and if the amount has changed by \$50 or less, unless the information is incomplete, inaccurate, inconsistent or outdated. The State agency shall also not verify total medical expenses or actual utility expenses which are unchanged or have changed by \$25 or less, unless the information is incomplete, inaccurate, inconsistent or outdated

7 C.F.R. § 273.2(f)(8)(ii)

Federal regulation provides as follows:

*Medical expenses.* The amount of any medical expenses (including the amount of reimbursements) deductible under § 273.9(d)(3) shall be verified prior to initial certification. Verification of other factors, such as the allowability of services provided or the eligibility of the person incurring the cost, shall be required if questionable.

7 C.F.R. § 273.2(f)(1)(iv)

**The Department correctly determined the BCBS monthly premium of \$253.30 as a qualifying medical expense.**

**The Department correctly determined the Appellant entitled to the excess medical deduction under the SNAP. The excess medical deduction equals \$218.30. \$253.30 qualifying medical expense - \$35.00 = \$218.30 excess medical deduction**

**The Department correctly excluded the newly reported increase in the BCBS monthly premium to \$276.19 in 2022 incurred by the Appellant until the Department receives proof of the premium increase. The Department correctly excluded the newly reported dental premium of \$56.90 per month incurred by the Appellant until the Department receives proof of such premium. Federal regulation provides to apply such expenses to a SNAP calculation, medical expenses must be verified and meet the criteria as a qualifying medical cost under 7 C.F.R. § 273.9(d)(3).**

*Excess shelter deduction.* Monthly shelter expenses in excess of 50 percent of the household's income after all other deductions in paragraphs (d)(1) through (d)(5) of this section have been allowed. If the household does not contain an elderly or disabled member, as defined in §271.2 of this chapter, the shelter deduction cannot exceed the maximum shelter deduction limit established for the area. For fiscal year 2001, effective March 1, 2001, the maximum monthly excess shelter expense deduction limits are \$340 for the 48 contiguous States and the District of Columbia, \$543 for Alaska, \$458 for Hawaii, \$399 for Guam, and \$268 for the Virgin Islands. FNS will set the maximum monthly excess shelter expense deduction limits for fiscal year 2002 and future years by adjusting the previous year's limits to reflect changes in the shelter component and the fuels and utilities component of the Consumer

Price Index for All Urban Consumers for the 12-month period ending the previous November 30. FNS will notify State agencies of the amount of the limit. Only the following expenses are allowable shelter expenses:

- A. Continuing charges for the shelter occupied by the household, including rent, mortgage, condo and association fees, or other continuing charges leading to the ownership of the shelter such as loan repayments for the purchase of a mobile home, including interest on such payments.
- B. Property taxes, State and local assessments, and insurance on the structure itself, but not separate costs for insuring furniture or personal belongings.
- C. The cost of fuel for heating; cooling (i.e., the operation of air conditioning systems or room air conditioners); electricity or fuel used for purposes other than heating or cooling; water; sewerage; well installation and maintenance; septic tank system installation and maintenance; garbage and trash collection; all service fees required to provide service for one telephone, including, but not limited to, basic service fees, wire maintenance fees, subscriber line charges, relay center surcharges, 911 fees, and taxes; and fees charged by the utility provider for initial installation of the utility. One-time deposits cannot be included.
- D. The shelter costs for the home if temporarily not occupied by the household because of employment or training away from home, illness, or abandonment caused by a natural disaster or casualty loss. For costs of a home vacated by the household to be included in the household's shelter costs, the household must intend to return to the home; the current occupants of the home, if any, must not be claiming the shelter costs for SNAP purposes; and the home must not be leased or rented during the absence of the household.
- E. Charges for the repair of the home which was substantially damaged or destroyed due to a natural disaster such as a fire or flood. Shelter costs shall not include charges for repair of the home that have been or will be reimbursed by private or public relief agencies, insurance companies, or from any other source.

7 C.F.R. § 273.9(d)(6)(ii)

Federal regulation provides as follows:

*Standard utility allowances.* With FNS approval, a State agency may develop the following standard utility allowances (standards) to be used in place of actual costs in determining a household's excess shelter deduction: an individual standard for each type of utility expense; a standard utility allowance for all utilities that includes heating or cooling costs (HCSUA); and, a limited utility allowance (LUA) that includes electricity and fuel for purposes other than heating or cooling, water, sewerage, well and septic tank installation and maintenance, telephone, and garbage or trash collection. The LUA must include expenses for at least two utilities.

However, at its option, the State agency may include the excess heating and cooling costs of public housing residents in the LUA if it wishes to offer the lower standard to such households. The State agency may use different types of standards but cannot allow households the use of two standards that include the same expense. In States in which the cooling expense is minimal, the State agency may include the cooling expense in the electricity component. The State agency may vary the allowance by factors such as household size, geographical area, or season. Only utility costs identified in paragraph (d)(6)(ii)(C) of this section must be used in developing standards.

7 C.F.R. § 273.9(d)(6)(iii)(A)

For the period October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023, the standard utility allowance for Connecticut equals \$921.00. (United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service SNAP SUA Table FY2023, December 30, 2022)

Federal regulation provides as follows:

A standard with a heating or cooling component must be made available to households that incur heating or cooling expenses separately from their rent or mortgage and to households that receive direct or indirect assistance under the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 (LIHEAA). A heating or cooling standard is available to households in private rental housing who are billed by their landlords on the basis of individual usage or who are charged a flat rate separately from their rent. However, households in public housing units which have central utility meters and which charge households only for excess heating or cooling costs are not entitled to a standard that includes heating or cooling costs based only on the charge for excess usage unless the State agency mandates the use of standard utility allowances in accordance with paragraph (d)(6)(iii)(E) of this section. Households that receive direct or indirect energy assistance that is excluded from income consideration (other than that provided under the LIHEAA) are entitled to a standard that includes heating or cooling only if the amount of the expense exceeds the amount of the assistance. Households that receive direct or indirect energy assistance that is counted as income and incur a heating or cooling expense are entitled to use a standard that includes heating or cooling costs. A household that has both an occupied home and an unoccupied home is only entitled to one standard.

7 C.F.R. § 273.9(d)(6)(iii)(C)

**The Department correctly determined the Appellant eligible for the SUA because the Appellant pays for all the utilities in her apartment including electric heating costs and received energy assistance through LIHEAA, also known as CEAP in Connecticut. The cost of cable is not an allowable shelter deduction.**

**The Department correctly determined the monthly shelter costs as \$1,142.00. \$221.00 rent + \$921.00 SUA = \$1,142.00**

**The Department incorrectly reported the shelter hardship as \$196.00. The correct shelter hardship equals \$313.15. Refer to COL # 9. However, the increased shelter hardship does not impact the outcome of this decision.**

7. Federal regulation provides as follows:

*Calculating net income and benefit levels-Net monthly income.* To determine a household's net monthly income, the State agency shall:

- A. Add gross monthly income earned by all household members and the total monthly unearned income of all household members, minus income exclusions, to determine the household's total gross income. Net losses from the self-employment income of a farmer shall be offset in accordance with § 273.11(a)(2)(iii).
- B. Multiply the total gross monthly earned income by 20 percent and subtract that amount from the total gross income; or multiply the total gross monthly earned income by 80 percent, and add that to the total monthly unearned income, minus income exclusions. If the State agency has chosen to treat legally obligated child support payments as an income exclusion in accordance with § 273.9(c)(17), multiply the excluded earnings used to pay child support by 20 percent and subtract that amount from the total gross monthly income.
- C. Subtract the standard deduction.
- D. If the household is entitled to an excess medical deduction as provided in § 273.9(d)(3), determine if total medical expenses exceed \$35. If so, subtract that portion which exceeds \$35.
- E. Subtract allowable monthly dependent care expenses, if any, as specified in § 273.9(d)(4) for each dependent.
- F. If the State agency has chosen to treat legally obligated child support payments in accordance with § 273.9(d)(5)
- G. Subtract the homeless shelter deduction, if any, up to the maximum of \$143.
- H. Total the allowable shelter expenses to determine shelter costs, unless a deduction has been subtracted in accordance with paragraph (e)(1)(i)(G) of this section. Subtract from total shelter costs 50 percent of the household's monthly income after all the above deductions have been subtracted. The remaining amount, if any, is the excess shelter costs. If there is no excess shelter cost, the net monthly income has been determined. If there is excess shelter cost, compute the shelter deduction according to paragraph (e)(1)(i)(I) of this section.
- I. Subtract the excess shelter costs up to the maximum amount allowed for the area (unless the household is entitled to the full amount of its excess shelter expenses) from the household's monthly income after all other applicable deductions. Households not subject to a capped shelter expense shall have the full amount exceeding 50 percent of their net income subtracted. The household's net monthly income has been determined.

7 C.F.R. § 273.10(e)(1)(i)

8. Federal regulation provides as follows:

Except as provided in paragraphs (a)(1), (e)(2)(iii) and (e)(2)(vi) of this section, the household's monthly allotment shall be equal to the maximum SNAP allotment for the household's size reduced by 30 percent of the household's net monthly income as calculated in paragraph (e)(1) of this section. If 30 percent of the household's net income ends in cents, the State agency shall round in one of the following ways: The State agency shall round the 30 percent of net income up to the nearest higher dollar.

7 C.F.R. § 273.10(e)(2)(ii)(A)(1)

9. Federal regulation provides as follows:

Thrifty Food Plan (TFP) and Maximum SNAP Allotments. Maximum SNAP allotment level. Maximum SNAP allotments shall be based on the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP) as defined in §271.2, and they shall be uniform by household size throughout the 48 contiguous States and the District of Columbia. The TFP for Hawaii shall be the TFP for the 48 States and DC adjusted for the price of food in Honolulu. The TFPs for urban, rural I, and rural II parts of Alaska shall be the TFP for the 48 States and DC adjusted by the price of food in Anchorage and further adjusted for urban, rural I, and rural II Alaska as defined in §272.7(c). The TFPs for Guam and the Virgin Islands shall be adjusted for changes in the cost of food in the 48 States and DC, provided that the cost of these TFPs may not exceed the cost of the highest TFP for the 50 States. The TFP amounts and maximum allotments in each area are adjusted annually and will be prescribed in a table posted on the FNS web site, at [www.fns.usda.gov/fsp](http://www.fns.usda.gov/fsp).

7 C.F.R. § 273.10(e)(4)(i)

For the period October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023, the maximum SNAP allotment for the 48 States and D.C. for a household of one equals \$281.00 per month. (USDA, FNS Memorandum SNAP – Fiscal Year 2023 Cost-of-Living Adjustments, August 9, 2022)

“Except during an initial month, all eligible one-person and two-person households shall receive minimum monthly allotments equal to the minimum benefits. The minimum benefit is 8 percent of the maximum allotment for a household on one, rounded to the nearest whole dollar.” 7 C.F.R. § 273.10(e)(2)(ii)(C)

**\$281.00 maximum SNAP allotment x 8% = \$22.48 or \$23.00 minimum SNAP allotment.**

**The Department correctly determined the Appellant’s SNAP benefit as \$23.00 based on the income information and household expenses as reported by the Appellant prior to her [REDACTED] [REDACTED] 2023 request for an administrative hearing.**

**SNAP BENEFIT CALCULATION a/o [REDACTED]**

<u>INCOME</u>	
SSA benefit	\$476.00
VA benefit	\$311.00
Annuity	\$1,282.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$2,069.00</b>
Less standard deduction	\$193.00
Less medical expenses	\$218.30
<b>Adjusted gross income</b>	<b>\$1,657.70</b>
<u>SHELTER COSTS</u>	
Rent	\$221.00
SUA	\$921.00
<b>Total shelter costs</b>	<b>\$1,142.00</b>
<u>SHELTER HARDSHIP</u>	
Shelter costs	\$1,142.00
Less 50% of adjusted gross income	\$828.85
<b>Total shelter hardship</b>	<b>\$313.15</b>
<u>ADJUSTED NET INCOME</u>	
Adjusted gross income	\$1,657.70
Less shelter hardship	\$313.15
<b>Net Adjusted Income (NAI)</b>	<b>\$1,344.55</b>
<u>BENEFIT CALCULATION</u>	
Thrifty Food Plan for # Person/s	\$281.00
Less 30% of NAI 403.36	\$404.00
<b>SNAP award</b>	<b>00.00</b>
<b>Minimum SNAP award</b>	<b>\$23.00</b>

**DISCUSSION**

During the pandemic, the additional supplemental SNAP benefits issued to the Appellant allowed her to offset her financial obligations and purchase her groceries with SNAP benefits rather than cash. Now that these benefits have ended, the Appellant feels the financial strain placed on her due to her fixed income making it difficult to afford food without the extra help. However, based on the Appellant's financial information and household expenses, the Department correctly determined the Appellant's monthly SNAP as \$23.00.

Changes reported by the Appellant after her request for an administrative hearing should be verified so that the Department may evaluate the Appellant's continued eligibility for SNAP benefits and determine any changes to the Appellant's SNAP monthly SNAP

allotment. On ■■■■■ 2023, the Department issued the Appellant a notice requesting proof of income and out of pocket medical costs. The Appellant is encouraged to submit the requested documentation so that the Department has the correct information to determine the appropriate SNAP benefit going forward.

**DECISION**

The Appellant's appeal is denied.

Lisa A. Nyren  
Lisa A. Nyren  
Fair Hearing Officer

CC: Sarah Chmielecki, SSOM RO #20  
Tim Latifi, SSOM RO #20  
Ralph Filek, RO #20  
Shannon Shlash, FHL, RO #20

### **RIGHT TO REQUEST RECONSIDERATION**

The appellant has the right to file a written reconsideration request within **15** days of the mailing date of the decision on the grounds there was an error of fact or law, new evidence has been discovered or other good cause exists. If the request for reconsideration is granted, the appellant will be notified within 25 days of the request date. No response within 25 days means that the request for reconsideration has been denied. The right to request a reconsideration is based on §4-181a (a) of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Reconsideration requests should include specific grounds for the request: for example, indicate what error of fact or law, what new evidence, or what other good cause exists.

Reconsideration requests should be sent to: Department of Social Services, Director, Office of Administrative Hearings and Appeals, 55 Farmington Avenue Hartford, CT 06105.

### **RIGHT TO APPEAL**

The appellant has the right to appeal this decision to Superior Court within 45 days of the mailing of this decision, or 45 days after the agency denies a petition for reconsideration of this decision, provided that the petition for reconsideration was filed timely with the Department. The right to appeal is based on §4-183 of the Connecticut General Statutes. To appeal, a petition must be filed at Superior Court. A copy of the petition must be served upon the Office of the Attorney General, 165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106 or the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services, 55 Farmington Avenue Hartford, CT 06105. A copy of the petition must also be served on all parties to the hearing.

The 45 day appeal period may be extended in certain instances if there is good cause. The extension request must be filed with the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services in writing no later than 90 days from the mailing of the decision. Good cause circumstances are evaluated by the Commissioner or the Commissioner's designee in accordance with §17b-61 of the Connecticut General Statutes. The Agency's decision to grant an extension is final and is not subject to review or appeal.

The appeal should be filed with the clerk of the Superior Court in the Judicial District of New Britain or the Judicial District in which the appellant resides.