

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL, REGULATIONS, AND ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
55 FARMINGTON AVE.
HARTFORD, CT 06105-3725

████████ 2023
Signature Confirmation

Client ID █████
Case ID █████
Request # 223936

NOTICE OF DECISION

PARTY

████████
████████
████████

PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

The Department of Social Services (the “Department”) determined █████ (the “Appellant”) eligible for benefits under the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (“SNAP”) in the amount of \$310.00 per month beginning █████ 2023.

On █████ 2023, the Appellant requested an administrative hearing to contest the Department’s decision to reduce her SNAP benefits beginning █████ 2023.

On █████ 2023, the Office of Legal Counsel, Regulations, and Administrative Hearings (“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.

The following individuals were present for the hearing:

████████ Appellant
Kirsten Evans, Department Representative
Lisa Nyren, Fair Hearing Officer

STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE

The issue to be decided is whether the Department's calculation of the Appellant's SNAP benefits as \$310.00 beginning [REDACTED] 2023 is correct.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Appellant received benefits under the SNAP for a household of five: herself age [REDACTED] ("spouse") her spouse age [REDACTED] and her their three children [REDACTED] ("older daughter") age [REDACTED] [REDACTED], [REDACTED] ("son") age [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] ("daughter") age [REDACTED]. No one in the household is disabled. (Hearing Record)
2. The Appellant's 12-month SNAP certification expired on [REDACTED] 2023. (Department Representative Testimony and Exhibit 4: Federal SNAP-Income Test)
3. On [REDACTED] 2023, the Appellant began working part time for [REDACTED] (the "discount store") earning \$15.00 per hour. The Appellant is paid bi-weekly. (Stipulated)

Period End Date	Pay Date	Hours	Gross Earnings
[REDACTED] / [REDACTED] /23	[REDACTED] / [REDACTED] /23	31.75	\$476.25
[REDACTED] / [REDACTED] /23	[REDACTED] / [REDACTED] /23	20.71	\$385.80
[REDACTED] / [REDACTED] /23	[REDACTED] / [REDACTED] /23	24.94	\$381.60
[REDACTED] / [REDACTED] /23	[REDACTED] / [REDACTED] /23	44.41	\$666.15
[REDACTED] / [REDACTED] /23	[REDACTED] / [REDACTED] /23	36.08	\$541.20
[REDACTED] / [REDACTED] /23	[REDACTED] / [REDACTED] /23	36.31	\$544.65
[REDACTED] / [REDACTED] /23	[REDACTED] / [REDACTED] /23	30.14	\$452.10

4. On [REDACTED] 2023, the son began working part time for [REDACTED] dba [REDACTED] ("grocery store") earning \$15.20 per hour. The son is paid weekly. (Stipulated)

Date Paid	Hours	Gross Earnings
[REDACTED] / [REDACTED] /23	17.25	\$273.75
[REDACTED] / [REDACTED] /23	17.00	\$270.00
[REDACTED] / [REDACTED] /23	20.25	\$325.13
[REDACTED] / [REDACTED] /23	28.25	\$438.75
[REDACTED] / [REDACTED] /23	26.00	\$411.00
[REDACTED] / [REDACTED] /23	27.00	\$426.00
[REDACTED] / [REDACTED] /23	26.00	\$411.00
[REDACTED] / [REDACTED] /23	21.00	\$339.00
[REDACTED] / [REDACTED] /23	15.00	\$234.00
[REDACTED] / [REDACTED] /23	34.50	\$530.40

5. On [REDACTED] 2023, the Department received the Appellant's renewal of eligibility application document signed by the Appellant on [REDACTED] 2023 requesting continued benefits under the SNAP for a family of five: herself, spouse, older daughter, son, and daughter. The Appellant reported new employment with the discount store. The renewal document was void of any employment information for the son or older daughter. The Appellant reported zero out of pocket expenses which include childcare, medical, child support, shelter, and utilities. (Department Representative Testimony, Appellant Testimony, and Exhibit 1: Renewal of Eligibility)
6. On [REDACTED] 2023, the Department determined the Appellant's monthly gross wages as \$1,297.90. $\$1/23 \$541.20 + 1/23 \$666.15 / 2 \text{ pays} = \$603.675 \text{ biweekly average} \times 2.15 = \$1,297.90125$. (Exhibit 2: The WorkNumber, Exhibit 5: Federal SNAP-Income Test, Exhibit 6: Case Notes, and Department Representative Testimony)
7. On [REDACTED] 2023, the Department completed a telephone interview with the Appellant. The Appellant requested to remove her older daughter from the household since she is employed and intends to move out. The Appellant reported employment for the son with the grocery store. The Appellant confirmed zero shelter expenses. (Exhibit 6: Case Notes)
8. On [REDACTED] 2023, the Department determined the son's monthly gross wages as \$1,720.95. $\$1/23 \$325.13 + 1/23 \$438.75 + 1/23 \$411.00 + 1/23 \$426.00 = \$1,600.88 / 4 \text{ weeks} = \$400.200 \times 4.3 \text{ weeks} = \$1,720.946$. (Exhibit 3: CCC Verify, Exhibit 5: Federal SNAP-Income Test, Exhibit 6: Case Notes, and Department Representative Testimony)
9. The Department determined the standard deduction as \$208.00 per month for a household of four under the SNAP effective [REDACTED] 2023. (Exhibit 5: Federal SNAP – Income Test and Department Representative Testimony)
10. The Appellant received an earned income deduction equal to \$603.77. $\$1,297.90 \text{ Appellant monthly gross wages} + \$1,720.95 \text{ Son monthly gross wages} = \$3,018.85 \text{ total household gross monthly income} \times 20\% = \$603.77 \text{ Earned Income Deduction}$. (Exhibit 2: Federal SNAP – Income Test)
11. The Appellant does not incur rent or utility charges. The Appellant and her family live in her grandmother's home with her mother and is not charged rent or utilities. The Appellant does not pay cell phone charges. (Appellant's Testimony)

12. The household receives medical coverage under the Husky Health plan and does not have out of pocket medical expenses. (Appellant's Testimony)
13. On [REDACTED] 2023, the Department recertified the Appellant's SNAP benefits effective [REDACTED] 2023 through [REDACTED] 2024 with a monthly benefit of \$310.00 for a household of four: the Appellant, spouse, son, and daughter. The Department removed the older daughter from the SNAP household beginning [REDACTED] 2023 at the Appellant's request. (Exhibit 5: Federal SNAP – Income Test)
14. 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] 2023. Therefore, this decision is due not later than [REDACTED] 2023.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Section 17b-2(7) of the Connecticut General Statute provides that 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(b)(1)(ii) of the Code of Federal Regulations ("C.F.R.") provides as follows:

The following individuals who live with others must be considered as customarily purchasing food and preparing meals with the others, even if they do not do so, and thus must be included in the same household, unless otherwise specified. A person under 22 years of age who is living with his or her natural or adoptive parent(s) or step-parent(s).

The Department correctly determined a household of four, the Appellant, spouse, son, and daughter. The Department correctly determined the older daughter as not a mandatory member of the household due to her age and correctly excluded her at the Appellant's request.

3. Federal regulation provides as follows:

No household may participate beyond the expiration of the certification period assigned in accordance with § 273.10(f) without a determination of eligibility for a new period. The State agency must establish procedures for notifying households of expiration dates, providing application forms,

scheduling interviews, and recertifying eligible households prior to the expiration of certification periods. Households must apply for recertification and comply with interview and verification requirements.

7 C.F.R. § 273.14(a)

Federal regulation provides as follows:

The State agency must develop an application to be used by households when applying for recertification. It may be the same as the initial application, a simplified version, a monthly reporting form, or other method such as annotating changes on the initial application form. A new household signature and date is required at the time of application for recertification. The provisions of [§ 273.2\(c\)\(7\)](#) regarding acceptable signatures on applications also apply to applications used at recertification. The recertification process can only be used for those households which apply for recertification prior to the end of their current certification period, except for delayed applications as specified in [paragraph \(e\)\(3\)](#) of this section. The process, at a minimum, must elicit from the household sufficient information that, when added to information already contained in the casefile, will ensure an accurate determination of eligibility and benefits. The State agency must notify the applicant of information which is specified in [§ 273.2\(b\)\(2\)](#), and provide the household with a notice of required verification as specified in [§ 273.2\(c\)\(5\)](#).

7 C.F.R. § 273.14(b)(2)

“Other households reporting required changes in circumstances that submit applications by the 15th day of the last month of the certification period shall be considered to have made a timely application for recertification.” 7 C.F.R. § 273.14(c)(2)

Federal regulation provides as follows:

As part of the recertification process, the State agency must conduct an interview with a member of the household or its authorized representative at least once every 12 months for households certified for 12 months or less. The provisions of [§ 273.2\(e\)](#) also apply to interviews for recertification. The State agency may choose not to interview the household at interim recertifications within the 12-month period. The requirement for an interview once every 12 months may be waived in accordance with [§ 273.2\(e\)\(2\)](#).

7 C.F.R. § 273.14(b)(3)

On [REDACTED] 2023, the Department correctly accepted the Appellant's application for recertification under the SNAP requesting continued benefits. The Department correctly determined the renewal application as timely.

On [REDACTED] 2023, the Department correctly completed a recertification interview with the Appellant.

4. Federal regulation provides as follows:

Information provided by the household shall be verified in accordance with § 273.2(f)(8)(i). The State agency shall provide the household a notice of required verification as provided in § 273.2(c)(5) and notify the household of the date by which the verification requirements must be satisfied. The household must be allowed a minimum of 10 days to provide required verification information. Any household whose eligibility is not determined by the end of its current certification period due to the time period allowed for submitting any missing verification shall receive an opportunity to participate, if eligible, within 5 working days after the household submits the missing verification and benefits cannot be prorated.

7 C.F.R. § 273.14(b)(4)

Federal regulation provides as follows:

At recertification the State agency shall verify a change in income if the source has changed or the amount has changed by more than \$50. Previously unreported medical expenses, actual utility expenses and total recurring medical expenses which have changed by more than \$25 shall also be verified at recertification. The State agency shall not verify income if the source has not changed and if the amount is unchanged or 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 claimed by households which are unchanged or have changed by \$25 or less, unless the information is incomplete, inaccurate, inconsistent or outdated. For households eligible for the child support deduction or exclusion, the State agency may use information provided by the State CSE agency in determining the household's legal obligation to pay child support, the amount of its obligation and amounts the household has actually paid if the household pays its child support exclusively through its State CSE agency and has signed a statement authorizing release of its child support payment records to the State agency. A household would not have to provide any additional verification unless they disagreed with the information provided by the State CSE agency. State agencies that choose to use information provided by their State CSE agency in accordance with this paragraph

(f)(8)(i)(A) must specify in their State plan of operation that they have selected this option. For all other households eligible for the child support deduction or exclusion, the State agency shall require the household to verify any changes in the legal obligation to pay child support, the obligated amount, and the amount of legally obligated child support a household member pays to a nonhousehold member. The State agency shall verify reportedly unchanged child support information only if the information is incomplete, inaccurate, inconsistent or outdated.

7 C.F.R. § 273.2(f)(8)(i)(A)

Federal regulation provides as follows:

Other households that have met all application requirements shall be notified of their eligibility or ineligibility by the end of their current certification period. In addition, the State agency shall provide households that are determined eligible an opportunity to participate by the household's normal issuance cycle in the month following the end of its current certification period.

7 C.F.R. § 273.14(d)(2)

On [REDACTED] 2023, the Department correctly completed the recertification process authorizing continued benefits under the SNAP for the household upon receipt of verification of employment wages.

5. "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)

"Earned income shall include: (i) All wages and salaries of an employee." 7 C.F.R. § 273.9(b)(1)(i)

Federal regulation provides as follows:

Income received during the past 30 days shall be used as an indicator of the income that is and will be available to the household during the certification period. However, the State agency shall not use past income as an indicator of income anticipated for the certification period if changes in income have occurred or can be anticipated. If income fluctuates to the extent that a 30-day period alone cannot provide an accurate indication of anticipated income, the State agency and the household may use a longer period of past time if it will provide a more accurate indication of anticipated fluctuations in future income. Similarly, if the household's income fluctuates seasonally, it may be appropriate to use the most recent season comparable to the certification period, rather than the last 30 days,

as one indicator of anticipated income. The State agency shall exercise particular caution in using income from a past season as an indicator of income for the certification period. In many cases of seasonally fluctuating income, the income also fluctuates from one season in one year to the same season in the next year. However, in no event shall the State agency automatically attribute to the household the amounts of any past income. The State agency shall not use past income as an indicator of anticipated income when changes in income have occurred or can be anticipated during the certification period.

7 C.F.R. § 273.10(c)(1)(ii)

The Department correctly determined both the Appellant's discount store wages and Son's grocery store wages as countable household income under SNAP.

6. Federal regulation provides as follows:

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)

On [REDACTED] 2023, the Department correctly determined the Appellant's monthly gross wages as \$1,297.90 estimating ongoing wages based on most recent biweekly pays. Refer to Finding of Facts ("FOF") #'s 3 & 6.

On [REDACTED] 2023, the Department correctly determined the Son's monthly gross wages as \$1,720.95 using wages from [REDACTED] 2023. Refer to FOF #'s 4 & 8.

7. "Deductible expenses include only certain dependent care, shelter, medical and, at State agency option, child support costs as described in § 273.9." 7 C.F.R. § 273.10(d)

Federal regulation provides as follows:

Deductions shall be allowed only for the following household expenses:

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)

United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Services provides as follows:

Effective October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024 the standard deduction for the 48 States & District of Columbia for a household of 4 is \$208.00. [United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Cost-of-Living Adjustments, August 3, 2023]

Federal regulation provides as follows:

Earned income deduction. Twenty percent of gross earned income as defined in paragraph (b)(1) of this section. Earnings excluded in paragraph (c) of this section shall not be included in gross earned income for purposes of computing the earned income deduction, except that the State agency must count any earnings used to pay child support that were excluded from the household's income in accordance with the child support exclusion in paragraph (c)(17) of this section.

7 C.F.R. § 273.9(d)(2)

Federal regulation provides as follows:

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:

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)

Federal regulation provides as follows:

At initial certification, recertification, and when a household moves, the household may choose between a standard or verified actual utility costs for any allowable expense identified in paragraph (d)(6)(ii)(C) of this section (except the telephone standard), unless the State agency has opted, with FNS approval, to mandate use of a standard. The State agency may require use of the telephone standard for the cost of basic telephone service even if actual costs are higher. Households certified for 24 months may also choose to switch between a standard and actual costs at the time of the mandatory interim contact required by § 273.10(f)(1)(i), if the State agency has not mandated use of the standard.

7 C.F.R. § 273.9(d)(6)(iii)(D)

The Department correctly determined the standard disregard as \$208.00 for a household of four.

The Department correctly determined the earned income deduction as \$603.77. \$3,018.85 gross earnings x 20% = \$603.77 earned income deduction. Refer to FOF #10.

The Department correctly determined the Appellant ineligible for a shelter deduction beginning [REDACTED] 2023 because the Appellant does not incur any shelter costs as confirmed by her renewal application and testimony provided at the administrative hearing.

8. Federal regulation provides the following:

To determine a household's net monthly income, the State agency shall:

- A. Add the 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 under § 273.9(d)(4) for each dependent.
- F. If the State agency has chosen to treat legally obligated child support payments as a deduction rather than an exclusion in accordance with §273.9(d)(5), subtract allowable monthly 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 cost. 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)(l) of this section.
- I. Subtract the excess shelter cost 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.

"In calculating net monthly income, the State agency shall use one of the following two procedures: Round down each income and allotment calculation that ends in 1 through 49 cents and round up each calculation that ends in 50 through 99 cents." 7 C.F.R. § 273.10(e)(1)(ii)(A)

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 for the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP) and Maximum SNAP Allotments:

Maximum SNAP allotment level. Maximum SNAP allotments shall be based on the 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.

7 CFR § 273.10(e)(4)(i)

United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Services provides as follows:

Effective October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024 the maximum monthly SNAP allotment for the 48 States & District of Columbia for a household four equals \$973.00. [United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Services, Memorandum SNAP – Fiscal Year 2024 Cost-of-Living Adjustments, August 3, 2023]

On [REDACTED] 2023, the Department correctly determined the Appellant's SNAP benefit as \$310.00 beginning [REDACTED] 2023.

INCOME	
Discount Store Wages	\$1,297.90
Grocery Store Wages	\$1,720.95
Total Household Income	\$3,018.85
Less Earned Income disregard	-\$603.77
Less standard deduction	-\$208.00
Adjusted gross income	\$2,207.08
SHELTER COSTS	
Mortgage	\$00.00
SUA	<u>+\$00.00</u>
Total shelter costs	\$00.00
SHELTER HARDSHIP	
Shelter costs	\$00.00
Less 50% of adjusted gross income	<u>-\$1,103.54</u>
Shelter hardship	\$00.00
ADJUSTED NET INCOME	
Adjusted gross income	\$2,207.08
Less shelter hardship	<u>-\$00.00</u>
Net Adjusted Income (NAI)	\$2,207.08
BENEFIT CALCULATION	
Thrifty Food Plan for 4 Person/s	\$973.00
Less 30% of NAI (2,207.08 x .3=\$662.124)	<u>-\$663.00</u>
SNAP award	\$310.00

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, Supervisor RO #20
Kirsten Evans, 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.