

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

██████████ 2024  
Signature confirmation

Case: ██████████  
Client: ██████████  
Request: 243491

**NOTICE OF DECISION**

**PARTY**

██████████  
██████████  
██████████

**PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND**

The Department of Social Services (the “Department”) issued ██████████ ██████████ (the “Appellant”) \$58.00 in Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (“SNAP”) benefits for the ██████████ 2024 service month.

On ██████████ 2024, the Office of Legal Counsel, Regulations, and Administrative Hearings (“OLCRAH”) received the Appellant’s faxed request for an administrative hearing.

On ██████████ 2024, the OLCRAH scheduled a hearing for ██████████ 2024.

On ██████████, 2024, in accordance with sections 17b-60, 17b-61 and 4-176e to 4-189, inclusive, of the Connecticut General Statutes, and Section 273.15 (a) of Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations (“C.F.R.”), the OLCRAH held a hearing by video conferencing. The following individuals participated:

██████████ Appellant  
Christine Faucher, Department Representative  
Eva Tar, Hearing Officer

The hearing record closed ██████████ 2024.

**STATEMENT OF ISSUE**

The issue is whether the Department correctly determined that the Appellant’s household was eligible to receive \$58.00 in SNAP benefits for the ██████████ 2024 service month.

### FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Department issued the Appellant's household \$58.00 in SNAP benefits for the [REDACTED] 2024 service month. (Dept. Exhibit 8)
2. The [REDACTED]-year-old Appellant lives with her two minor children; the Appellant's household contains no disabled individuals. (Appellant Testimony)
3. The Appellant grosses \$751.00 per week in unemployment benefits. (Dept. Exhibit 3)
4. The Appellant's mortgage payment is \$1,606.00 "plus change" per month; the \$1,606.00 mortgage payment includes escrow for real estate taxes and homeowner's insurance. (Appellant Testimony)
5. Effective [REDACTED] 2023, the following SNAP program standards were active in Connecticut: 1. SNAP standard deduction for three equaled \$198.00 per month; 2. SNAP Standard Utility Allowance equaled \$912.00 per month; 3. the shelter hardship expense cap equaled \$672.00 per month for households with no elderly or disabled members; and 4. SNAP Thrifty Food Plan for three without income equaled \$766.00 per month. (Dept. Exhibits 5 and 6)
6. Title 7, Section 273.15 (c)(1) of the Code of Federal Regulations ("C.F.R.") provides: "Within 60 days of receipt of a request for a fair hearing, the State agency shall assure that the hearing is conducted, a decision is reached, and the household and local agency are notified of the decision...." On [REDACTED] 2024, the OLCRAH received the Appellant's hearing request. This hearing decision would have become due by no later than [REDACTED] 2024. This final decision is timely.

### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Department is the state agency for the administration of the SNAP pursuant to the supplemental nutrition assistance program pursuant to the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 17b-2.

**The Department has the authority under State statute to administer the SNAP in Connecticut.**

2. Title 7, Code of Federal Regulations ("C.F.R."), Section 273.1 (b) provides: "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. (i) ... ; (ii) A person under 22 years of age who is living with his or her natural or adoptive parent(s) or step-parent(s); ...."

**The Appellant and her two minor children are a SNAP household of three.**

3. "Unearned income shall include, but not be limited to: (i) ... ; (ii) 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; ...." 7 C.F.R. § 273.9 (b)(2)(ii).

“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....” 7 C.F.R. § 273.10 (c)(2)(i).

**For the purposes of the SNAP, the Appellant grosses \$3,229.30 per month in unearned income. [\$751.00 (gross weekly unemployment compensation) multiplied by 4.3 weeks per month]**

4. Title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 273.10 (e) provides for calculating net income and benefit levels. Subsection (e)(1)(i) provides:

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...

(B) ...

(C) Subtract the standard deduction.

(D) ...

(E) ...

(F) ...

(G) ...

(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 excess shelter cost, compute the shelter deduction according to paragraph (e)(1)(i)(I) 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.

7 C.F.R. § 273.10 (e)(1)(i).

Title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, Section § 273.9 (d)(1)(i) provides for a standard deduction for the 48 States, District of Columbia, Alaska, Hawaii, and the Virgin Islands.

“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); ....” 7 C.F.R. § 273.9 (d)(6)(iii)(A).

“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....” 7 C.F.R. § 273.9 (d)(6)(ii).

**The Appellant’s monthly adjusted gross income equals \$3,031.30 in ██████ 2024. [\$3,229.30 (gross monthly unemployment compensation) minus \$198.00 (standard deduction for three)]**

**The Appellant’s monthly allowable shelter expenses equal \$2,518.00 in ██████ 2024. [\$1,606.00 (mortgage payment, includes real estate taxes and homeowner’s insurance) plus \$912.00 (SUA)]**

**The Appellant’s shelter hardship equals \$672.00 in ██████ 2024. [\$2,518.00 (shelter expenses) minus \$1,515.65 (50 percent of adjusted gross income); result is capped at \$672.00 for households with no elderly or disabled members]**

**The Appellant’s net adjusted income equals \$2,359.30. [\$3,031.30 (adjusted gross income) minus \$672.00 (shelter hardship)]**

5. Title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 273.10 (e)(4) addresses the Thrifty Food Plan and maximum SNAP allotments.
6. Title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 273.10 (e)(2)(ii)(A) provides:  
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:
  - (1) The State agency shall round the 30 percent of net income up to the nearest higher dollar; or
  - (2) The State agency shall not round the 30 percent of net income at all. Instead, after subtracting the 30 percent of net income from the appropriate Thrifty Food Plan, the State agency shall round the allotment down to the nearest lower dollar.7 C.F.R. § 273.10 (e)(2)(ii)(A).

**The result of deducting \$708.00 (30 percent of the Appellant’s net adjusted income, rounded to nearest dollar) from \$766.00 (maximum Thrifty Food Plan allotment for three with no income) is \$58.00.**

7. The Appellant’s SNAP benefits are calculated as follows:

<b>SNAP BENEFIT CALCULATION</b>	
<b>* ██████ 2024 *</b>	
<b>INCOME</b>	
Unemployment compensation per month (gross)	\$3,229.30
Less standard deduction (for three)	- 198.00
<b>Adjusted gross income -</b>	<b>\$3,031.30</b>

<b><u>SHELTER EXPENSES</u></b>	
Mortgage payment <i>(includes real estate taxes &amp; homeowner's insurance)</i>	\$1,606.00
Plus Standard Utility Allowance (SUA)	+ 912.00
<b>Total allowable shelter costs -</b>	<b>\$2,518.00</b>
<b><u>SHELTER HARDSHIP</u></b>	
Shelter costs	\$2,518.00
Less 50% of adjusted gross income	- 1,515.65
<b>Total shelter hardship</b> <i>(capped at \$672.00 for households with no elderly or disabled members)</i>	<b>\$672.00</b>
<b><u>ADJUSTED NET INCOME</u></b>	
Adjusted gross income	\$3,031.30
Less shelter hardship	- 672.00
<b>Net Adjusted Income -</b>	<b>\$2,359.30</b>
<b><u>BENEFIT CALCULATION</u></b>	
Thrifty Food Plan for three <i>(maximum monthly benefit for SNAP household without income)</i>	\$766.00
Less 30% of Net Adjusted Income <i>(rounded to nearest dollar)</i>	-708.00
<b>SNAP BENEFIT:</b>	<b>= \$58.00</b>

The Department correctly determined that the Appellant's household was eligible to receive \$58.00 in SNAP benefits for the [REDACTED] 2024 service month.

**DECISION**

The Appellant's appeal is DENIED.

*Eva Tar-electronic signature*  
Eva Tar  
Hearing Officer

cc: Christine Faucher, DSS-Manchester  
Nawaz Shaikh, DSS-Manchester  
Angelica Branfalt, DSS-Manchester

### **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 Legal Counsel, Regulations, and Administrative Hearings, 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 his 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.