

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
APPEALS OFFICE

[REDACTED]
v.

Rhode Island Department of Human
Services

DOCKET No. 25-3360

DECISION

I. INTRODUCTION

A Microsoft Teams meeting on the above-entitled matter was held on September 18, 2025. [REDACTED] (Appellant) initiated this matter to appeal a decision made by the Department of Human Services (DHS) to decrease her Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefit allotment due to her household being over income for SNAP. For the reasons discussed in detail below, the Appellant's appeal is denied.

II. JURISDICTION

The Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) is authorized and designated by R.I.G.L. §42-7.2-6.1 and 210-RICR-10-05-2 to be the principal entity responsible for appeals and hearings related to DHS programs. The administrative hearing was held in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, R.I.G.L. §42-35-1 et seq., and EOHHS regulation 210-RICR-10-05-2.

III. ISSUE

The issue is whether the decrease of the Appellant's SNAP allotment was done in compliance with Federal and State regulations and policies as set forth below.

IV. PARTIES AND EXHIBITS

Present for DHS was Eligibility Technician III, Jesus R. Martinez, who testified regarding the case. DHS offered the following into evidence:

- Exhibit A: Request for appeal received July 21, 2025.
- Exhibit B: Benefit Decision Notice (BDN) dated July 10, 2025.
- Exhibit C: Recertification/Renewal packet received June 25, 2025.
- Exhibit D: receipt for room and board, signed by the Appellant and her adult daughter (tenant), dated June 17, 2025.
- Exhibit E: SNAP Income Calculation.
- Exhibit F: DHS Policy 218-RICR-20-00-1.5.4(G).

The Appellant attended the hearing and testified on her own behalf.

V. RELEVANT LAW/REGULATIONS

Household income means all income from whatever source, such as all wages and salaries for services performed and assistance payments from federal or federally aided public assistance programs, such as SSI. 218-RICR-20-00-1.5.2(A)(1)(a)(1) and 218-RICR-20-00-1.2.2(B)(a)(1)(AA).

Households that contain an elderly or disabled member must meet the net income standard of \$1,255.00 for a household of one. 218-RICR-20-00-1.15(A)(2).

Payments from boarders are treated as self-employment income. 218-RICR-20-00-1.5.4(G)(4).

SNAP allows five deductions from a household's gross income. These deductions are the earned income deduction, the standard deduction, the excess medical expense deduction, the dependent care deduction, and the excess shelter deduction. 218-RICR-20-00-1.5.7(A)(6).

The maximum excess shelter deduction for household's incurring shelter costs is \$712.00. However, the maximum shelter deduction does not apply to households with an elderly or disabled member. Those households receive an excess shelter deduction for the monthly cost that exceeds 50% of the household's monthly income after all other applicable deductions. 218-RICR-20-00-1.5.7(a)(6)(C)(2).

VI. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Appellant received a BDN dated July 10, 2025, informing her that her SNAP allotment decreased to \$23.00 due to an increase in earnings, in this instance self-employment income from rent.
2. The Appellant filed an Appeal Request on July 21, 2025, contesting the decrease.
3. The Appellant's SNAP household is a household of one
4. The Appellant submitted her signed recertification/renewal form, which was received by DHS on June 25, 2025. She wrote that she is receiving \$1,200.00 room and board income monthly, providing a letter signed by herself and her daughter/tenant as verification.
5. The Appellant's household failed the net income limit test.
6. Once all of the Appellant's reported deductions were calculated, the household's net income was \$1,255.00, which exceeds the net income limit of \$1165.00 for a

household of one. Because the Appellant is elderly/disabled, she is entitled to the minimum SNAP allotment of \$23.00.

VII. DISCUSSION

DHS stands by its position that the Appellant's household is over the net income limit for SNAP, therefore decreasing her SNAP allotment, is correct.

The basis for the Appellants appeal is she feels the rental income should not be counted because she uses it to pay the household expenses for herself and her daughter. The Appellant testified that she transfers all of the daughters/tenants Social Security (\$1,200.00) into her account. Additionally, she argued her daughter receives the maximum allotment because she is disabled and is under a plan where her income is disregarded.

That Appellant's daughter works in a sheltered workshop through [REDACTED]. The Appellant was referring to the Sherlock Program, which allows for a portion of her daughter's earned income to be disregarded, but not her unearned income (Social Security).

There is no dispute that the Appellant's daughter is receiving a shelter deduction because she is paying \$1,200.00 in rent, which entitles her to the maximum allotment.

The Appellant concedes the income calculation is correct, and she is entitled only to a \$23.00 monthly SNAP allotment.

VIII. CONCLUSION OF LAW

After careful consideration of the testimony and evidence presented at the Administrative Hearing, this Hearings Officer concludes:

1. DHS was in compliance with the appropriate Federal and State regulations when counting the rental income from the Appellant's tenant/daughter.
2. DHS was in compliance with State and Federal regulations in decreasing the Appellant's SNAP allotment to \$23.00.

IX. DECISION

Based on the foregoing findings of fact, conclusions of law, evidence, and testimony it is found that a final order be entered that DHS complied with the requirements of the applicable Federal and State regulations and policies when decreasing the Appellant's SNAP benefits.

APPEAL DENIED

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jillian R. Rivers", is written over a horizontal line.

Jillian R. Rivers

Appeals Officer

NOTICE OF APPELLANT RIGHTS

This final order constitutes a final order of the Department of Human Services pursuant to RI General Laws §42-35-12. Pursuant to RI General Laws §42-35-15, a final order may be appealed to the Superior Court sitting in and for the County of Providence within thirty (30) days of the mailing date of this decision. Such appeal, if taken, must be completed by filing a petition for review in Superior Court. The filing of the complaint does not itself stay enforcement of this order. The agency may grant, or the reviewing court may order, a stay upon the appropriate terms.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that I mailed, via regular mail, postage prepaid, a true copy of the foregoing to [REDACTED]; copies were sent, via email, to DHS Representatives Jesus Martinez, Kirsten Cornford, the DHS Appeals Unit, and the DHS Policy Office on this 25th day of September, 2025.

