



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
PO BOX 716

SARAH ADELMAN
Commissioner

TAHESHA L. WAY
Lt. Governor

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0716

NATASHA JOHNSON
Assistant Commissioner

The following Decision is distributed for your information. This Decision has been made in consideration of the specific facts of this case. This Decision is not to be interpreted as establishing any new mandatory policy or procedure otherwise officially promulgated.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

FINAL DECISION

OAL DKT. NO. HPW **03498-24 I.W.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C149248001 (ATLANTIC CO. DEPT OF FAM. & COM. DEV)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits, and denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits, contending that his monthly earned income exceeded the allowable eligibility benefit level for receipt of such benefits, and denied Petitioner EA benefits, contending that he had failed to provide all required documentation needed to determine EA benefits eligibility. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On March 19, 2024, the Honorable Catherine A. Tuohy, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On March 20, 2024, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, based on the testimonial and documentary evidence presented, the ALJ found that Petitioner's gross monthly employment income exceeded the maximum benefit payment level allowed for WFNJ/GA benefits eligibility. See Initial Decision 2-4; see also Exhibit R-1 at 1, 6-10, 17-18, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.1(c), -3.5(b), and Division of Family Development Informational Transmittal ("DFD IT") No. 19-21. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 4-5; see also Exhibit R-1 at 11-14. I agree. Consequently, because Petitioner was no longer a WFNJ benefits recipient, and is not a Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") benefits recipient, the ALJ found that Petitioner was ineligible for EA benefits, and on that basis, concluded that the Agency's denial of EA benefits to Petitioner was also proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 4-5; see also Exhibit R-2 at 1-4, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a) (stating that only WFNJ and SSI benefits recipients are eligible for EA benefits). I also agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As Assistant Commissioner, DFD, Department of Human Services, I have considered the ALJ's Initial Decision, and following an independent review of the record, I concur with the ALJ's final conclusion in this matter and hereby ADOPT the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law.

By way of comment, the Agency shall refer Petitioner to any and all agencies and organizations that may be able to assist with his current needs, including Social Services for the Homeless.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED, and the Agency's determination is AFFIRMED.



Officially approved final version. March 28, 2024

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

