

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Chris Christie Governor

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Elizabeth Connolly Acting Commissioner

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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 15207-15 S.C.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C197484 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") benefits, and seeks reimbursement for transportation costs. The Agency terminated Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF benefits because it determined that she had exhausted her cumulative lifetime limit of WFNJ cash benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On November 9, 2015, the Honorable Mumtaz Bari-Brown, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents. On December 3, 2015, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have reviewed the ALJ's Initial Decision and the record, and I ADOPT the ALJ's Initial Decision and AFFIRM the Agency's determination.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.3(a), "eligibility for cash assistance benefits shall be limited to a lifetime total of 60 cumulative months for an adult individual recipient." See also N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.1(d) ("Assistance benefits provided under WFNJ are time-limited and considered a temporary cash subsidy"). However, an individual may receive additional months of cash assistance if he/she qualifies for an exemption to, or extension of, the time limit, as set forth at N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.4 and -2.5 respectively. The goal of WFNJ is help the recipient achieve self-sufficiency

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through obtaining employment and removal from the program. See N.J.S.A. 44:10-62(a).

Here, the record shows that Petitioner received more than 60 months of WFNJ cash benefits. See Initial Decision at 2. While the ALJ did not address the Agency's termination of Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF benefits, I find that Petitioner had exhausted her lifetime limit of WFNJ cash benefits, and did not appear to have met any of the exceptions required for an exemption to, or an extension of, the WFNJ lifetime limit. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.3(a), -2.4, and -2.5. Accordingly, I find that the Agency properly terminated Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF cash benefits.

Additionally, the record shows that Petitioner is seeking reimbursement for transportation costs. See Initial Decision at 2. The ALJ found that Petitioner provided no documentation to the Agency required to determine her eligibility for any such transportation reimbursement. See Initial Decision at 2; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.6(a). Accordingly, the ALJ concluded, and I agree, that Petitioner failed to provide proper documentation to support her claim. See Initial Decision at 3.

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

Signed Copy on File at DFD, BARA

Natasha Johnson Director