



State of New Jersey

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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 18237-17 J.P.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C033852012 (MIDDLESEX COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") and Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits, and a reduction of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner WFNJ/GA benefits contending that his Unemployment Insurance Benefits ("UIB") exceeded the allowable eligibility income limits; denied Petitioner EA benefits because he was not a WFNJ or a Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") benefits recipient; and reduced Petitioner's SNAP benefits based on his UIB income. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. A hearing was initially scheduled for January 5, 2018, but was adjourned to allow Petitioner the opportunity to obtain counsel. On February 2, 2018, the Honorable Carl V. Buck, III, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On February 15, 2018, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the ALJ found that the Agency properly denied Petitioner WFNJ/GA benefits on November 27, 2017, effective October 13, 2017, the date of his application for said benefits, because his receipt of UIB benefits, beginning November 15, 2017, put him over the allowable income level for WFNJ/GA benefits eligibility. See Initial Decision at 3, 7; see also Exhibits R-5 at 1, R-6, R-9, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.1(a), (b). The ALJ also found that the Agency properly denied Petitioner EA benefits on November 27, 2017, because he was not a WFNJ or an SSI benefits recipient. See Initial Decision at 4, 7; see also Exhibit R-8, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a). Further, the ALJ found that the Agency's reduction of Petitioner's SNAP benefits was proper, as substantiated by the Agency's SNAP calculations submitted into evidence. See Initial Decision at 4, 7; see also Exhibits R-5 at 2-5, R-10 at A, B, C, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-12.1, -12.3, -6.16, and Division of Family Development ("DFD") Instruction 17-09-02. Finally, the ALJ found Petitioner's claim, that the Agency's delay in processing his October 13, 2017, application for WFNJ/GA benefits had adversely impacted him, was without merit. See Initial Decision at 2, 4-5, 7-8; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.5(a). Based on the foregoing, the ALJ affirmed the Agency's denial of WFNJ/GA and EA benefits, and affirmed its reduction of Petitioner's SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision at 9; see also Exhibits R-5, R-8. I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As the Director of the 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.



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

Officially approved final version.

FEB 22 2018

Natasha Johnson

Director

