



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 12543-17 M.H.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C343796007 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner WFNJ/TANF benefits contending 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 September 29, 2017, the Honorable Mumtaz Bari-Brown, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. The record was held open for the parties to submit post-hearing arguments, and on October 30, 2017, the record was closed.

On December 13, 2017, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Based upon the record presented, Petitioner has received 74 months of WFNJ/TANF and WFNJ/General Assistance benefits, well beyond the 60-month cumulative lifetime limit for such benefits set forth at N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.3(a). See Initial Decision at 2, 4; see also Exhibit R-1 at 7-9, 12-20. Further, of those 74 months of WFNJ benefits, 17 months of benefits were provided under the Supportive Assistance for Individuals and Families ("SAIF") Program. Ibid. As such, on June 21, 2017, the Agency denied Petitioner WFNJ/TANF benefits. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit P-1 at 1-4. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ affirmed the Agency's denial of WFNJ/TANF benefits to Petitioner, finding that she had exhausted her lifetime limit of WFNJ benefits, and that no further extensions were available to continue said benefits. See Initial Decision at 3-5; see also Exhibit R-1 at 7, 9, 12-20, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.3(a), -2.4, -2.20. I agree.

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.

By way of comment, the Initial Decision in this matter reflects that Petitioner may have an issue pertaining to the denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. See Initial Decision at 2-3. However, that issue was not transmitted on appeal. Nevertheless, Petitioner is advised that EA benefits are available only to WFNJ and Supplemental Security Income benefits recipients. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a).



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

Officially approved final version.

Natasha Johnson
Director

JAN 30 2018

