



State of New Jersey

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
PO BOX 716
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0716

ELIZABETH CONNOLLY
Acting Commissioner

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

NATASHA JOHNSON
Director
Tel: (609) 588-2000

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 01882-18 N.C.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C476112007 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Work First New Jersey ("WFNJ") cash benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner WFNJ benefits contending that she had exceeded the 60-month cumulative lifetime limit for receiving said benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On February 27, 2018, the Honorable Ernest M. Bongiovanni, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On March 6, 2018, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that Petitioner had received a lifetime cumulative total of 122 months of WFNJ cash benefits. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibits R-2, R-3, and R-4. The ALJ found that Petitioner had exhausted her lifetime limit of WFNJ benefits, that she has not demonstrated that she meets the criteria for an extension to, or exemption from, the lifetime limit. See Initial Decision at 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.4, -2.5. Therefore, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of WFNJ benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.3(a)(1). 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 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 transmittal in this matter indicates an additional contested issue regarding a denial of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. This issue was not addressed by the ALJ, and is therefore, not addressed in this Final Decision. However, if Petitioner still has an issue pertaining to a denial of SNAP benefits, Petitioner may request another fair hearing on that issue alone.

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

MAR 13 2018

Officially approved final version.

Natasha Johnson
Director

