



State of New Jersey

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Director

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 05498-18 N.G.

AGENCY DKT. NO. S613942012 (MIDDLESEX COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") benefits, the denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits, and a reduction in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner WFNJ/TANF benefits contending that she failed to provide required documentation needed to determine eligibility. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. The record in this matter reflects that on May 8, 2018, prior to the plenary hearing, Petitioner withdrew her appeals regarding a denial of EA benefits and a reduction of SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision at 2. On May 22, 2018, the Honorable Carl V. Buck, III, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents on Petitioner's remaining appealed issue pertaining to a denial of WFNJ/TANF benefits.

On June 12, 2018, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination regarding the denial of WFNJ/TANF benefits to Petitioner. The ALJ found that Petitioner failed to provide required bank statement information to the Agency within the time frame requested. See Initial Decision at 4-5; see also Exhibits R-6, R-7, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.6, -2.2(a)(5). Such information is needed by the Agency in order to determine Petitioner's eligibility for said benefits. See Initial Decision at 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(4), -3.1(a). Moreover, the ALJ found that Petitioner had not provided the Agency with the requested information until May 18, 2018, which was more than thirty days from the date of her March 5, 2018, application for WFNJ/TANF benefits, and from the Agency's April 2, 2018, denial of WFNJ/TANF benefits. See Initial Decision at 4-5; see also Exhibits R-2, R-3, R-13, R-15, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.5(a). Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of WFNJ/TANF benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 6; see also Exhibit R-13. 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, as it appears from the record that Petitioner's income exceeds the maximum allowable income level for receipt of WFNJ/TANF benefits by her individually, Petitioner is advised that any future WFNJ/TANF benefits eligibility determination would be on behalf of the minor child only. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-11, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.7(a)(1)(iii), -3.2(a), (b).



By way of further comment, as Petitioner's appeals regarding EA and SNAP benefits issues were withdrawn prior to the plenary hearing before the ALJ, those issues are now moot, and therefore, are not addressed in this Final Decision.

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

Officially approved final version.

Natasha Johnson

Director

JUN 21 2018

