



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
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NATASHA JOHNSON
Assistant Commissioner

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 03639-21 A.B.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C400917020 (UNION COUNTY DIVISION 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. The Agency denied Petitioner WFNJ/GA benefits because he has exhausted the 60-month lifetime limit for said benefits, and denied Petitioner EA benefits because he was not a WFNJ, nor a Supplemental Security Income ("SSI"), benefits recipient. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On April 26, 2021, the Honorable John P. Scollo, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On April 28, 2021, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determinations.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

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

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

Only WFNJ and SSI benefit recipients are eligible for EA benefits. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a).

The record in this matter clearly shows that Petitioner has exceeded the 60-month lifetime limit for receipt of WFNJ benefits, and no evidence has been presented that Petitioner would qualify for an exemption from, or extension of, that lifetime limit. See Initial Decision at 2 3; see also Exhibit R-2 and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.4, -2.5. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ in this matter found that the Agency appropriately denied Petitioner WFNJ benefits. See Initial Decision at 2. I agree. Furthermore, the ALJ



concluded that, as Petitioner was not a WFNJ, nor an SSI, benefits recipient, Petitioner was ineligible for EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-1 at 3. I also agree.

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

Officially approved final version.

MAY 13 2021

Natasha Johnson

Assistant Commissioner

