



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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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 **00743-23 A.C.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C028108017 (SALEM COUNTY BOARD 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 Agency denied Petitioner WFNJ/TANF benefits, contending that she had exhausted her lifetime limit of said benefits and that she did not meet the criteria for an exemption from the WFNJ/TANF benefits time limit. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On February 22, 2023, the Honorable Catherine A. Tuohy, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On March 8, 2023, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that Petitioner has received 71 months of combined WFNJ/TANF and WFNJ/General Assistance ("GA") benefits, and as such, she has exhausted her lifetime limit of said benefits. See Initial Decision at 2, 4, 5; see also Exhibit R-1 at 16-32, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.3(a). In order to be granted continued WFNJ/TANF benefits, Petitioner had to qualify for an exemption from the WFNJ benefits lifetime limit. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.4(a). The ALJ found that Petitioner had not provided the Agency with a 12-month MED-1 form, indicating a 12-month disability, required for her to qualify for an exemption from the WFNJ/TANF lifetime limit. See Initial Decision at 4-5; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.4(a) (3). Also, it appears from the record that Petitioner did not meet any of the other criteria required for an exemption from said time limit. See Initial Decision at 2-5; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.4(a)(1) - (7). 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 4-6; see also Exhibit R-1 at 4-7. I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As Assistant Commissioner, 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 Agency shall refer Petitioner to any and all agencies and organizations that may be able to assist with her current needs.

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



Officially approved final version. May 02, 2023

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

