



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 **04787-23 E.B.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C273270004 (CAMDEN-CCBSS)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's WFJN/TANF benefits, contending that she had exhausted her lifetime limit of said benefits and that did not meet the criteria for any further 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 June 29, 2023, the Honorable William T. Cooper, III, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On July 14, 2023, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that Petitioner's assistance unit ("AU") consists of five persons. See Initial Decision at 2. The record further reflects that Petitioner has received 117 months of cumulative WFNJ/TANF benefits as of February 2, 2023, and as such, she has exhausted her lifetime limit of said benefits. *Ibid.*; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.1(d). Petitioner had been granted an extension of WFNJ/TANF benefits when she participated in Supportive Assistance for Individuals and Families ("SAIF") program, and was granted an additional extension when she submitted a MED-1 form with supporting medical documentation. See Initial Decision at 2; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.5(a). The ALJ in this matter found the Agency's testimony credible, that it had advised Petitioner of the documentation needed for a further exemption, namely, a new completed MED-1 form and status of a Supplemental Security Income application, but Petitioner has not submitted same. See Initial Decision at 3, 5-6, 8. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner has exhausted her lifetime limit of WFNJ/TANF benefits and did not qualify for any further exemption from the time limit, and as such, the Agency's termination of Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF benefits was proper and must stand. *Id.* at 9. 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 in this matter.

By way of comment, the transmittal in this matter indicates an additional contested issue pertaining to a termination of Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. This issue was not addressed by the ALJ. Therefore, if Petitioner still has an issue pertaining to a termination 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.



Officially approved final version. August 23, 2023

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

