



## State of New Jersey

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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 **01471-23 F.R.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C181275015 (OCEAN COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner WFNJ/GA benefits, contending that he failed to comply with the mandatory 28-day work activity protocol. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On March 17, 2023, the Honorable Judith Lieberman, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. The record was reopened on March 27, 2023, to request additional information from Petitioner, and then closed on March 31, 2023.

On April 10, 2023, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, reversing the Agency's determination. Here, the ALJ found that, during the time Petitioner had been scheduled to attend his mandatory WFNJ 28-day work activity, he had obtained full time permanent employment, and as such, not only was he a success, but he also had good cause for failing to participate in said work activity. See Initial Decision at 2-6; see also Exhibits P-1, P-2, P-3, R-3, and R-5; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.2(f)(8), -4.1(a)(1), -4.2. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of WFNJ/GA benefits to Petitioner, on the basis that he had failed to comply with the work activity, was improper and must be reversed. See Initial Decision at 7-8; see also Exhibits R-1, R-4. Accordingly, the ALJ ordered the Agency to reevaluate Petitioner's eligibility for WFNJ/GA benefits, using his income during the time relevant to the application at issue. See Initial Decision at 7. I agree, and remand the matter to the Agency for said reevaluation.

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.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED, the Agency's determination is REVERSED, and the matter is REMANDED to the Agency, as outlined above.



Officially approved final version. May 17, 2023

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

