



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 11081-22 G.M.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C773931007 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

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 provide required documentation. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. A hearing was initially scheduled for January 26, 2023, but was adjourned at the request of Petitioner, to allow him the opportunity to prepare his case with counsel. On February 23, 2023, the Honorable Ernest M. Bongiovanni, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On March 14, 2023, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the ALJ found that the Agency had properly noticed Petitioner regarding the specific documentation required to be provided to the Agency in order for it to determine his eligibility for WFNJ/GA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2-4; see also Exhibit J-3, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5). The ALJ also found that Petitioner had failed to provide all the required documentation within the time period required for submission of said documents, but rather had finally provided all the required documentation nine months after such documentation had been requested, and nearly five months after the Agency's denial of WFNJ/GA benefits to Petitioner. See Initial Decision at 3-4; see also Exhibits J-4, J-6. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that that Agency's denial of WFNJ/GA benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 4-5; see also Exhibit J-1. 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, Petitioner is advised that he may reapply for WFNJ/GA benefits but must supply all required information and documentation necessary to determine eligibility.

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



Officially approved final version. May 03, 2023

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

