



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 **10209-23 M.R.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C207482002 (BERGEN COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's reduction and termination of Work First New Jersey/ General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits. Upon a redetermination, the Agency terminated Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits, contending that her monthly unearned income exceeded the WFNJ/GA benefits maximum financial eligibility limits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On November 9, 2023, the Honorable Evelyn J. Marose, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On November 22, 2023, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the ALJ found, and the record substantiates, that, upon a redetermination for continued WFNJ/GA benefits, Petitioner reported that she receives three monthly monetary contributions from family members totaling \$480. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibits R-1 through R-6. In accordance with applicable regulatory authority, Petitioner's monthly income of \$480, exceeded the maximum allowable income level of \$185 for continued receipt of WFNJ/GA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.4(b), -3.5(b), and Division of Family Development Informational Transmittal ("DFD IT") No. 19-21. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-7. I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As Assistant Commissioner, DFD, 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 transmittal in this matter indicates an additional contested issue pertaining to a reduction of Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits. However, as the ALJ affirmed the Agency's termination of Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits, Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefit reduction issue is now moot, and not addressed in this Final Decision. See Initial Decision at 3.



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

Officially approved final version. December 28, 2023

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

