



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
PO BOX 716

SARAH ADELMAN
Commissioner

TAHESHA L. WAY
Lt. Governor

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0716

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 13398-23 M.R.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C266838004 (CAMDEN-CCBSS)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF"), and Emergency Assistance ("EA"), benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner WFNJ/TANF, contending that she was over the initial income level for receipt of said benefits, and denied Petitioner EA benefits because she was not a WFNJ, nor a Supplemental Security Income ("SSI"), benefits recipient. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On December 8, 2023, the Honorable Sarah G. Crowley, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On December 11, 2023, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the ALJ found, and Petitioner agreed, that based on her monthly household income, she is ineligible for WFNJ/TANF benefits. See Initial Decision at 2; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.1(a), (b). The record also reflects that Petitioner is not an SSI benefits recipient. See Initial Decision at 2. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner is ineligible for EA benefits, and accordingly, concluded that the Agency's denial of EA benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 2-3, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a)(limiting eligibility for EA benefits to WFNJ and SSI benefits recipients). 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, although the transmittal in this matter indicates that Petitioner appealed the denial of WFNJ/TANF benefits, at the hearing, she did not dispute the Agency's income calculations, and agreed that she was ineligible for WFNJ/TANF benefits due to her household income. See Initial Decision at



2. Therefore, the ALJ did not specifically address such denial in the Initial Decision, and accordingly, it was not necessary to address that specific issue in this Final Agency Decision. Id. at 2-3.

By way of further comment, the Agency shall refer Petitioner to any and all agencies and organizations that may be able to assist with her current needs, including Social Services for the Homeless.

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

Officially approved final version. December 20, 2023

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

