



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 **05248-23 N.G.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **S636187012 (MIDDLESEX COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)**

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 benefits, contending that she failed to provide required documentation to the Agency needed to determine her eligibility for WFNJ/TANF benefits, and denied Petitioner EA benefits because she was not a WFNJ benefits recipient, nor a Supplemental Security Income ("SSI"), benefits recipient. Petitioner also appeals the termination of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits for failure to provide information to determine continued eligibility. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On June 21, 2023, the Honorable Kim C. Belin, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On June 22, 2023, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determinations. The ALJ in this matter issued a very thorough and comprehensive Initial Decision, providing a detailed and well thought out analysis, applying law to fact. See Initial Decision at 2-6. Specifically, the ALJ found that, while Petitioner had provided some requested documentation, information pertaining to her employment and checking accounts had not been provided and were required for the Agency to assess her eligibility for WFNJ/TANF benefits. Id. at 3, 5. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of WFNJ/TANF benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 6-7; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5), (d). I agree. Further, the ALJ found that because Petitioner was not a WFNJ or SSI benefits recipient, she was ineligible for EA benefits, and as such, concluded that the Agency's denial of EA benefits to Petitioner was also proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 6-7; see also Exhibit R-6, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a). I also agree. Finally, with respect to the termination of Petitioner's SNAP benefits, which is to be effective July 1, 2023, Petitioner was advised that there was still time for her to submit necessary verification to the Agency, and she was provide with relevant contact information to do so. See Initial Decision at 5. However, if such required information is not provided to the Agency prior to the effective termination date, the termination of SNAP benefits stands as issued. See Exhibit R-10.



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 without prejudice to reapply for WFNJ/TANF and EA benefits, but is advised that he must provide the Agency with all requested/required documentation. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5).

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. June 29, 2023

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

