



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 **02109-23 R.T.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **S794029009 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of his applications for Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA"), and Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program ("SNAP"), benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's applications for WFNJ/GA and SNAP benefits, contending that Petitioner had failed to provide information and documentation necessary to determine eligibility for said benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On May 17, 2023, the Honorable Evelyn J. Marose, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing and took testimony.

On June 2, 2023, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determinations. Here, the record reveals that the Petitioner was denied SNAP benefits, effective August 29, 2022, and WFNJ/GA benefits, effective September 29, 2022. See Initial Decision at 2. The Agency denied Petitioner WFNJ/GA and SNAP benefits due to Petitioner's failure to provide income documentation, specifically, information for the last 30 days prior to his applications. Ibid. Petitioner maintains that he provided a letter detailing his June 2022 employment from Door Dash. Ibid. Petitioner also stated that in addition to the June 2022 letter, he provided the Agency with letters detailing his income from other months, and placed these letters in the Agency's "drop box" in Jersey City. Ibid. The June 2022 letter, and the additional letters Petitioner said he provided to the Agency, did not contain information for the last 30 days prior to his applications. Ibid.

In order to determine eligibility for SNAP and WFNJ benefits, mandatory verification of certain information is required. See N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19 and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2. Eligibility for SNAP benefits requires verification of gross non-exempt income, and verification for WFNJ benefits requires the applicant to provide all necessary documentation. See N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19(b) and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a) (5)(stating that "As a condition of eligibility for WFNJ benefits, the applicant shall, subject to good cause exceptions, be required to provide all necessary documentation."). Based on the credible testimony provided, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had not provided the information required to be verified to determine eligibility, and as such, the Agency's denial of both WFNJ/GA and SNAP benefits to Petitioner



was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19(b) and 10:90-2.2(a) (5). 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 without prejudice to reapply for WFNJ and SNAP benefits in his current county of residence, but is reminded that he must provide all information and documentation requested in order to determine eligibility.

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

Officially approved final version. July 24, 2023

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

