



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 11711-23 M.M.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C040433021 (WARREN CO. DIV TEMP ASST & SOC. SVCS)

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. On December 5, 2023, the Honorable Gail M. Cookson, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. The record was held open to allow Petitioner the opportunity to submit additional documents, and then closed on December 15, 2023.

On December 19, 2023, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the ALJ found that, by notice dated April 20, 2023, the Agency advised Petitioner of the documents required to determine his eligibility for WFNJ/GA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 14-15; and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5). Petitioner had 30 days from the date of that notice to provide all required documents to the Agency. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 15. However, the record reflects that Petitioner had failed to provide the Agency with complete bank information, a further explanation of what support his mother was providing to him, and a dependent-care MED-5 form, which is the correct form required to establish dependent-care. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 27-34, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.4(a)(2)(ii). Consequently, the Agency denied WFNJ/GA benefits to Petitioner, by notice dated May 8, 2023. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 19-23, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.6(a), -2.2(a)(5), -2.2(d). The record also reflects that Petitioner had reapplied for WFNJ/GA benefits on August 8, 2023, provided all the documents required to be approved for said benefits, and began receiving those benefits effective that same date. See Initial Decision at 3. Therefore, at the time of the hearing the ALJ found that the only remaining issue to be determined was whether Petitioner was entitled to four months of retroactive WFNJ/GA benefits. *Ibid.* Based on the testimony and documentary evidence provided, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had failed to timely provide the required documentation to the Agency, and as such, the Agency's denial of WFNJ/GA benefits to Petitioner for the period of April 6, 2023, through July 31, 2023, was proper and must stand. *Id.* at 4; see also Exhibit R-1 at 19-23, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5), -2.2(d). Based on an independent review of the record, I agree.



No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

Officially approved final version. January 31, 2024

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

