



## State of New Jersey

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DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
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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 12388-23 T.F.

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C175446003 (BURLINGTON COUNTY BD. OF 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 she failed to provide proof that she applied for Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On December 13, 2023, the Honorable Rebecca C. Lafferty, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On December 19, 2023, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the ALJ found that the Agency had properly noticed Petitioner regarding the documentation required to be provided to the Agency, in order for the Agency to determine Petitioner's eligibility for WFNJ/GA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2-3, 5; see also Exhibit R-1 at 11-12, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5). Specifically, Petitioner was to provide the Agency with proof that she had applied for SSI benefits, by September 25, 2023. *Ibid.*; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(3). The ALJ also found that Petitioner had failed to provide sufficient documentation evidencing that she had indeed applied for SSI benefits within the time period required for submission of said documents, but rather had only provided various SSI benefits documents months after such documentation had been requested, and after the Agency's denial of WFNJ/GA benefits to Petitioner. See Initial Decision at 3-5; see also Exhibit R-1 at 25-33. The ALJ also found that Petitioner had failed to provide any good cause reason for her failure to timely provide the required documentation. See Initial Decision at 7. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that that Agency's denial of WFNJ/GA benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. *Ibid.*; see also Exhibit R-1 at 20-24. 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, it appears from the record that Petitioner reapplied for WFNJ/GA benefits, and that as of December 13, 2023, said application was in pending status. See Initial Decision at 4.

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



Officially approved final version. February 15, 2024

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

