



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development

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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 17861-15 E.B.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA187035 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of her application for Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") cash benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner WFNJ/GA benefits because it determined that she failed to provide, without good cause, the necessary documentation to determine her WFNJ/GA eligibility. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On December 22, 2015, the Honorable Jesse H. Strauss, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents.

On December 22, 2015, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, reversing the Agency's determination. The record shows that Petitioner applied for WFNJ/GA cash benefits, and the Agency requested the following documentation: a copy of current lease agreement; a copy of current gas and electric bill; and a letter from the person responsible for paying Petitioner's monthly rent. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1. The record also shows that Petitioner had submitted the aforementioned documents to the Agency. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibits P-1, P-2, and P-3. Additionally, the record shows that Petitioner had completed her required WFNJ work-related activities. See Initial Decision at 2. The ALJ found that Petitioner has met the WFNJ/GA eligibility requirements when she timely completed her work-related activities, and submitted all requested documentation. *Id.* at 2-3. Accordingly, the ALJ concluded, and I agree, that the Agency improperly denied Petitioner WFNJ/GA cash benefits, and ordered the

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Agency to provide Petitioner with WFNJ/GA benefits, as of the date of her completed work activity. Id. at 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.2(f)(8).

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.

As the Director of the 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 in this matter.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision in this matter is hereby ADOPTED and the Agency's determination is REVERSED.

JAN 20 2016

Signed Copy on File

at DFD, BARA

Natasha Johnson
Director