



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 17866-15 H.L.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA125860 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of his continued Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") cash benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner continued WFNJ/GA benefits because it determined that he failed to reapply for said benefits. 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 received WFNJ/GA cash benefits and was medically deferred from work activities. See Initial Decision at 2. The record also shows that at the time of Petitioner's redetermination for continuation of WFNJ/GA benefits, he submitted an updated MED-1 form, as requested by the Agency. Ibid. Additionally, the record shows that the Agency did not notify Petitioner that he was required to execute a new application, in addition to submitting an updated MED-1 form. Ibid. The ALJ found that the Agency had failed to assist Petitioner in the redetermination process. Ibid; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.22(b). The ALJ also found, and the Agency admitted, that Petitioner had met all the WFNJ/GA eligibility requirements for a continuation of said benefits. See Initial Decision at 2. Accordingly, the ALJ concluded, and I agree, that the Agency improperly denied Petitioner a continuation of his WFNJ/GA cash benefits. Id. at 3.

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