



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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Commissioner

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Lt. Governor

NATASHA JOHNSON
Director

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 14616-18 B.G.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C755719007 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP"), Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") and Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner SNAP, WFNJ/GA and EA benefits contending that he refused to fully sign and complete the requisite applications for benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On October 11, 2018, the Honorable Evelyn J. Marose, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On October 12, 2018, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, Petitioner acknowledged that he had applied for SNAP, WFNJ/GA and EA benefits, and did not complete and fully sign the applications. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-2 at 3, 4, 11, 12, 19, 20, 22, 26, 28, 29. Petitioner further testified that he did not agree with some of the terms of the application, including the requirement to repay any benefits received based upon certain conditions. See Initial Decision at 2. The ALJ found that Petitioner, having previously received 41 months of WFNJ/GA benefits, was familiar with his obligation to fully complete and sign an application for benefits. *Ibid.* Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency properly denied Petitioner SNAP and WFNJ/GA benefits, and because he is not a WFNJ benefits recipient, nor an SSI recipient, the ALJ further concluded that the Agency also properly denied Petitioner EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.14, N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(d), -6.2(a). I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

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.

By way of comment, Petitioner is without prejudice to re-apply for SNAP, WFNJ/GA and EA benefits. However, Petitioner is reminded that, as a condition of eligibility for WFNJ/GA benefits, he is required to cooperate with the program eligibility requirements, including, but not limited to, signing an Agreement to Repay benefits. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a) (6). Similarly, Petitioner is reminded that the application for SNAP benefits must be completed and signed to determine eligibility for program benefits. See N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.14.

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



Officially approved final version.

OCT 23 2018

Natasha Johnson

Director

