



State of New Jersey

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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 16574-17 H.C.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C704067007 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

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 because Petitioner failed to provide required documentation. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On December 5, 2017, the Honorable Richard McGill, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On December 6, 2017, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, Petitioner, a permanent United States ("U.S.") resident since around September 23, 1993, applied for WFNJ/GA benefits on September 1, 2017, but had not yet applied for U.S. citizenship. See Initial Decision at 2-3. The Agency requested written verification of Petitioner's citizenship application by a date certain. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-2, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5). Petitioner did not supply the necessary written verification, and therefore, the Agency denied his application for WFNJ/GA benefits, effective October 10, 2017. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5), -2.3(a)(3)(iv). Petitioner testified that he misunderstood what he was required to provide; however, the ALJ agreed with the Agency, finding that Petitioner's misunderstanding did not constitute good cause for failure to provide the necessary documentation. See Initial Decision at 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5), -2.3(a)(3)(iv), -2.10(a), (b). Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of EA benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1. I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have reviewed the record and the Initial Decision, and having made an independent evaluation of the record, I concur with the ALJ's Initial Decision, and hereby adopt the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in this matter.

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

Officially approved final version.

JAN 25 2018

Natasha Johnson
Director



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