



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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SARAH ADELMAN
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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 **05024-22 A.K.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C105058002 (BERGEN COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner WFNJ/TANF benefits, contending that she failed to provide documentation proving that she had applied for Unemployment Insurance Benefits ("UIB"). Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On July 5, 2022, the Honorable Thomas R. Betancourt, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On July 6, 2022, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that Petitioner applied for WFNJ/TANF benefits on April 1, 2022, and was advised by notices dated April 7, and April 12, 2022, that as a condition of WFNJ/TANF benefits eligibility, she was required to provide proof of her UIB application to the Agency. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 3, 23, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(3), (5). Of note, regulatory authority requires that an applicant, such as Petitioner, must apply for UIB within 30 days from the date of written notice to do so, which, in this case, would have been 30 days from April 7, 2022. See Exhibit R-1 at 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.12. The ALJ found, and Petitioner admitted, that as of the date of the hearing, she had not applied for UIB, and as such, had failed to provide proof of her UIB application to the Agency as required. See Initial Decision at 2-3. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of WFNJ/TANF benefits to Petitioner, for failure to provide proof of her application for UIB, was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 3-4; see also Exhibit R-1 at 27, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(3), (5). 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, Petitioner is advised that she may reapply for WFNJ/TANF benefits, if her circumstances warrant, and that she is responsible for providing the Agency with all requested documentation as required. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(3), (5).



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

Officially approved final version.

August 18, 2022

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

