



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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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 10205-21 R.D.

AGENCY DKT. NO. **S482597014 (MORRIS CO. OFFICE OF TEMP ASSISTANCE)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of her application for Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA"), and Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program ("SNAP"), benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's application for WFNJ/GA and SNAP benefits, contending that Petitioner had failed to provide information and documentation necessary to determine eligibility for said benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On January 6, 2022, the Honorable Mumtaz Bari-Brown, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On January 26, 2022, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination on the denial of WFNJ/GA benefits only, as prior to the hearing, the Agency reported that Petitioner had been approved for SNAP benefits. Here, the record reveals that Petitioner applied for WFNJ/GA and SNAP benefits on October 13, 2021. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1. The record further reflects that on October 18, 2021, written notice was sent to Petitioner outlining information and documentation required to determine eligibility, including proof of residency, and further stating that Petitioner must apply for Unemployment Insurance Benefits ("UIB") and also contact the Agency for GA purposes. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at "Request for Verification." Petitioner provided some of the necessary information, but did not apply for UIB and also did not submit verifiable proof of residency. See Initial Decision at 2, 3. As such, on November 12, 2021, the Agency denied Petitioner's application for WFNJ/GA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at November 12, 2021, Adverse Action Notice and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5)(stating that "As a condition of eligibility for WFNJ benefits, the applicant shall, subject to good cause exceptions, be required to provide all necessary documentation."). Based on the credible testimonial and documentary evidence presented, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had not provided the information required to be verified to determine eligibility, and as such, the Agency's denial of WFNJ/GA benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-1 and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2. 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 without prejudice to reapply for WFNJ benefits in her current county of residence, but is reminded that she must provide all information and documentation requested in order to determine eligibility.

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

Officially approved final version.

February 10, 2022

Natasha Johnson

Assistant Commissioner

