



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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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 **01747-22 R.L.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C077303015 (OCEAN COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA"), and Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner WFNJ/GA benefits, contending that he had failed to provide requested documentation required to determine his eligibility for WFNJ/GA benefits, and denied Petitioner EA benefits because he was not a WFNJ, nor a Supplemental Security Income ("SSI"), benefits recipient. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On April 5, 2022, the Honorable Dean J. Buono, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On April 12, 2022, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determinations. Here, Petitioner applied for WFNJ/GA benefits on January 4, 2022, and was required to apply for Unemployment Insurance Benefits ("UIB") and provide certain documentation by January 14, 2022, needed to determine WFNJ/GA benefits eligibility. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibits GA/R-2, GA/R-4, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5). The Agency claimed that Petitioner had failed to provide the required documentation, specifically, proof that he had applied for unemployment, and consequently, by notice dated February 03, 2022, the Agency denied WFNJ/GA benefits to Petitioner, and as a result, Petitioner was also ineligible for EA benefits and therefore, by notice dated March 16, 2022, the Agency denied said benefits to Petitioner. See Initial Decision at 2-4; see also Exhibits GA/R-1, EA/R-1 and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5), -6.2(a). The ALJ in this matter found that, although acquiring the required documentation was perhaps a difficult matter for Petitioner, he had failed to provide the Agency with adequate documentation needed to determine his WFNJ/GA eligibility. See Initial Decision at 2-4. Accordingly, the ALJ found that the Agency properly denied Petitioner WFNJ/GA benefits. *Id.* at 4, 6; see also Exhibit GA/R-1. Additionally, the ALJ found that because Petitioner was not a WFNJ/GA or SSI benefits recipient, he was ineligible for EA benefits. *Id.* at 5-6; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a). 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, but is reminded that he must provide the Agency with all required information and documentation necessary to determine eligibility.

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

Officially approved final version.

May 4, 2022

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

