



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 **08259-22 T.A.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C518281002 (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 was over the initial financial eligibility income level for receipt of said benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. A hearing was initially scheduled for October 6, 2022, but was adjourned at the request of the parties. On October 18, 2022, the Honorable Kelly J. Kirk, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, admitted documents, and the record then closed.

On October 20, 2022, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that Petitioner's assistance unit ("AU") consists of herself, and her two children. See Initial Decision at 2; see Exhibit R-1 at 4. The ALJ found, and the record substantiates, that at the time Petitioner applied for WFNJ/TANF benefits on June 3, 2022, her non-exempt household income was \$2,869. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 16-22, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.9, -3.19, -3.20(a)(9). Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner's income exceeded the maximum allowable income eligibility level of \$839 for WFNJ/TANF benefits for an AU of three, and as such, she was ineligible for WFNJ/TANF benefits. See Initial Decision at 3-5; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.1(a), (b), -3.3(a), and Division of Family Development Instruction No. 19-21. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of WFNJ/TANF benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 5; see also Exhibit R-1 at 26. 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, as the record indicates that Petitioner's household income may now differ from her income at the time of her WFNJ/TANF application, Petitioner is advised that she may reapply for WFNJ/TANF benefits, if said benefits are still needed. See Initial Decision at 5; see also Exhibits P-1, P-2, P-3.



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

Officially approved final version.

November 30, 2022

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

