



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

AMENDED DECISION

OAL DKT. NO. HPW **02730-222 W.P.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C749915007 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)**

A Final Agency Decision ("FAD") was issued in this matter on May 18, 2022. This Amended FAD is being issued to recognize receipt of Exceptions filed by Petitioner, and received by this office in the late afternoon on May 18, 2022, after issuance of the FAD in this case.

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 had failed to provide all documentation and verifications required to determine eligibility. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On May 4, 2022, the Honorable William J. Courtney, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On May 6, 2022, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the ALJ found that the Agency's oral testimony and submitted documentation had substantiated that Petitioner had failed to provide the documentation and verification required to determine her WFNJ/TANF benefits eligibility, that had been due by February 28, 2022. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 7-18, 21-22, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5). Although Petitioner claimed that the Agency had given her to March 27, 2022, to provide the requested information, and that she had provided all required documentation to the Agency by that date, the ALJ found that the only proof of such an extension and submission of the required documents was Petitioner's oral testimony, and which did not to outweigh the Agency's oral testimony and submitted documentary evidence. See Initial Decision at 2-3. 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 3-4; see also Exhibit R-1 at 2-6, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5). I agree.

Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received from Petitioner on May 18, 2022.

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, but is reminded that she must provide the Agency with all required documentation and verifications. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5).

By way of further comment, I have reviewed Petitioner's Exceptions, and I find that the arguments therein do not alter my decision in this matter.

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

Officially approved final version.

May 19, 2022

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

