



State of New Jersey

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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 **11191-25 A.R.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C010952010 (HUNTERDON COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)**

On August 27, 2025, a Final Agency Decision ("FAD") was issued in this matter. This Amended FAD is being issued to correct an administrative error, and hereby supersedes the previously issued FAD in its entirety.

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") benefits at redetermination. The Agency terminated Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF benefits at redetermination because she had exhausted the 60-month lifetime limit for WFNJ benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On July 22, 2025, the Honorable Sarah G. Crowley, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, admitted documents, and the record was closed. Petitioner was provided additional time to submit a one-year MED-1 form and proof of appeal of social security benefits, and the record was closed on July 24, 2025. On August 4, 2025, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have reviewed the ALJ's Initial Decision and the record, and I hereby MODIFY the ALJ's Initial Decision, and AFFIRM the Agency's determination, based on the discussion below.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.3(a), "eligibility for cash assistance benefits shall be limited to a lifetime total of 60 cumulative months for an adult individual recipient." See also N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.1(d) ("Assistance benefits provided under WFNJ are time-limited and considered a temporary cash subsidy[.]"). However, an individual may receive additional months of cash assistance if he/she qualifies for an exemption from, or extension of, the time limit, as set forth at N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.4 and -2.5 respectively. In relevant part, a recipient is exempt from the 60-month cumulative lifetime WFNJ limit if a "physical or mental impairment, defect or injury prevents him or her from engaging in full-time employment for a period of 12 or more months ... on a minimum of one WFNJ/MED-1, Examination Report." N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.4(a)(3)(i).

Here, an independent review of the record in this matter clearly shows that, as of the time of Petitioner's redetermination for WFNJ/TANF benefits, Petitioner had received a combined total of 98 months of WFNJ benefits, 87 months of WFNJ/TANF benefits, and 11 months of WFNJ/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits, and as such, she has exceeded the 60-month lifetime limit for receipt of WFNJ benefits, with no evidence having been presented that Petitioner would qualify for an exemption from, or extension of, that lifetime limit. See Exhibit R-1 and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.4, -2.5. At the time of the hearing, Petitioner did not dispute the number of months of WFNJ benefits she has received and provided testimony that she recently changed physicians and her new physician will not provide a one-year MED-1 form. See Initial Decision at



2; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.4(a)(3)(i). Further, Petitioner testified that she recently had her social security application denied, and she may seek an appeal of that decision. Ibid. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ in this matter found that the Agency appropriately terminated Petitioner's benefits. See Initial Decision at 3. I agree, but hereby modify the Initial Decision in this matter to reflect that the issue presented was a termination of WFNJ/TANF benefits, not a termination of EA benefits as stated in the Initial Decision.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision is hereby MODIFIED, and the Agency's determination is AFFIRMED, as outlined above.

Officially approved final version. September 03, 2025

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

