



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 **06861-25 H.L.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C082522008 (GLOUCESTER COUNTY DIV. OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioners appeal from the Respondent Agency's termination of Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") and Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioners' WFNJ/GA benefits, contending that the assistance unit's income exceeded the WFNJ/GA benefits financial eligibility limits, and terminated Petitioner's EA benefits because neither assistance unit member was a WFNJ/GA cash benefits recipient, nor a Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") benefits recipient. Because Petitioners appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On May 23, 2025, the Honorable Advia Knight Foster, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On June 11, 2025, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determinations.

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 hereby ADOPT the Initial Decision and AFFIRM the Agency's determinations, based on the discussion below.

Financial eligibility for WFNJ/GA benefits is determined based upon the assistance unit's ("AU") countable income, both earned and unearned, as well as countable resources. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.1(a). Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.1(c), once initial financial eligibility for a WFNJ/GA benefits recipient is found to exist, financial eligibility continues to exist so long as the total countable income of the WFNJ/GA AU, with benefit of the appropriate disregards set forth in N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.8 for earned income, if applicable, is less than the maximum benefit payment level for the appropriate eligible AU size in accordance with Schedule IV at N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.5(b). Effective July 1, 2019, the benefit level for an employable WFNJ/GA AU, consisting of two persons, is \$254 per month. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.5(b); see also DFD Informational Transmittal ("IT") No. 19-21.

Only WFNJ cash assistance recipients and Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") benefits recipients are eligible for EA benefits. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a).

Here, the ALJ found, and the record substantiates that Petitioners were in receipt of monthly WFNJ/GA benefits, when, on January 17, 2025, Petitioner J.W. began employment. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibits R-1, R-2. J.W. subsequently submitted seven paystubs to the Agency, which determined that J.W.'s income of \$605.40 per month exceeded the maximum allowable income level, of \$254, for continued receipt of WFNJ/GA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 and N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.4(a), (b), -3.5(a), (b), and Division of Family Development Informational



Transmittal DFD IT No. 19-21. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's termination of WFNJ/GA benefits to Petitioners was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1. I agree.

The ALJ further found that, because neither Petitioner is a WFNJ or SSI benefits recipient, the household is ineligible for EA benefits, and as such, concluded that Agency's termination of Petitioners' EA benefits was also proper and must be affirmed. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a). I also agree.

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

Officially approved final version. June 17, 2025

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

