



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

FINAL DECISION

OAL DKT. NO. HPW **03447-25 K.B.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C871706007 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's application for WFNJ/GA benefits, contending that Petitioner failed to provide information necessary to determine eligibility for said benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for a hearing. On May 28, 2025 the Honorable Evelyn J. Marose, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, admitted documents into evidence. The record was then held open until June 5, 2025, to allow for the submission of additional documentation. On June 6, 2025, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

Here, the record reveals that Petitioner applied for WFNJ/GA benefits on September 23, 2024. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit P-2. Thereafter, on November 20, 2024, the Agency informed Petitioner that the previously requested documentation, required to determine eligibility for benefits, had not been received. See Initial Decision at 2. Petitioner failed to respond to the Agency, and thereafter, on December 4, 2024, the Agency denied Petitioner's application for WFNJ/GA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2-3. On or about December 7, 2024, the Agency did receive a utility bill, which was uploaded to Petitioner's application file. Ibid.; see also Exhibit P-5. As of the date of the fair hearing, financial documents essential to determining Petitioner's eligibility for benefits had not been received by the Agency. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibits P-5, P-6. During January 2025, the Agency recommended that Petitioner re-apply for benefits and provide all documentation required to determine his eligibility for benefits, however, it is unclear whether or not Petitioner completed any additional application. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit P-3.

In order to determine eligibility for WFNJ benefits, mandatory verification of certain information is required. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2. Eligibility for WFNJ/GA benefits requires the applicant to provide all necessary documentation. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5) (stating that "As a condition of eligibility for WFNJ benefits, the applicant shall, subject to good cause exceptions, be required to provide all necessary documentation."). Based on the credible testimony and documentary evidence provided, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had not provided all information required to be verified to determine eligibility, and as such, the Agency's denial of WFNJ/GA benefits on December 4, 2024, was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5). 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/GA benefits, if he has not already done so, but is reminded that he must provide all information and documentation requested in order to determine eligibility.

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

