



## State of New Jersey

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*Governor*

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 **01600-25 M.P.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **S444862014 (MORRIS CO. OFFICE OF TEMP ASSISTANCE)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA"), and the recalculation of her Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner WFNJ/GA benefits because her total monthly unearned income was over the initial maximum allowable eligibility level for WFNJ/GA benefits. The Agency recalculated Petitioner's SNAP benefits due to a change in her unearned income and rent. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On March 25, 2025, the Honorable Susana E. Guerrero, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On March 27, 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 ("DFD"), 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 MODIFY the Agency's determinations, based on the discussion below.

In order to be eligible for Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits, the total countable income of the unemployable single adult, or couple without dependent children, must be equal to or less than the maximum benefit payment level for the size of the assistance unit as set out in Schedule V at N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.6(a). See N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.1(b)(1). Effective July 1, 2019, the maximum benefit level for an unemployable WFNJ/GA AU, consisting of one person, is \$277 per month. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.6(a); see also DFD Informational Transmittal ("IT") No. 19-21.

Here, Petitioner applied for WFNJ/GA benefits on October 1, 2024, at which time she had an active SNAP case, and reported that she received Retirement, Survivors and Disability Insurance ("RSDI") benefits in the monthly amount of \$1,165. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibits R-1, R-2. As Petitioner's monthly unearned income from RSDI benefits exceeded the unemployable WFNJ/GA maximum benefit level of \$277, Petitioner was found ineligible for WFNJ/GA benefits, and by notice dated October 24, 2024, the Agency denied Petitioner's application for WFNJ/GA benefits. Ibid.; see also Exhibit R-6 and N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.6(a). Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 3, 4. I agree, but modify both the Initial Decision and the Agency's adverse action notice to reflect the proper maximum benefit level for an unemployable WFNJ/GA AU, consisting of one person is \$277, rather than \$231 as stated in the Initial Decision. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.6(a); see also DFD Informational Transmittal ("IT") No. 19-21, Exhibit R-6 and Initial Decision at 2,3.

Based upon the monthly RSDI benefits amount provided on the WFNJ/GA application, as well as updated information showing a rent increase for Petitioner, the Agency recalculated Petitioner's SNAP benefits allotment and increased her



monthly benefit amount accordingly. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibits R-3, R-5. The ALJ also concluded that the Agency had properly recalculated Petitioner's SNAP benefits allotment based upon the updated information provided to the Agency, which resulted in an increase of benefits. Ibid.; see also Exhibits R-5, R-8. I also agree.

By way of comment, while not the subject adverse action which was the basis for Petitioner's appeal, the record does contain a later notice, dated December 6, 2024, which reflects a decrease in Petitioner's SNAP benefits from \$214 to \$201. See Exhibit R-8. This decrease was due to an increase in Petitioner's RSDI benefits. See Exhibit R-7. It should be noted that when income increases, with all other amounts (rent, etc.) in the benefits calculation remaining the same, the SNAP benefits allotment will decrease.

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

Officially approved final version. April 17, 2025

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

