



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
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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 **10161-25 P.H.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C455087004 (CAMDEN-CCBSS)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") benefits at redetermination. The Agency denied the redetermination application for WFNJ/TANF benefits, contending that Petitioner failed to provide required signed documentation needed to complete her application. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On August 8, 2025, the Honorable Mary Ann Bogan, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. The record was held open and closed on August 12, 2025. On August 26, 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 ("DFD"), Department of Human Services, I have reviewed the ALJ's Initial Decision and the record, I hereby ADOPT the ALJ's Initial Decision, and AFFIRM the Agency's determination, based on the discussion below.

Here, the record reveals that Petitioner completed her WFNJ/TANF redetermination interview on February 26, 2025, and thereafter, the Agency mailed her a pending letter requesting that Petitioner complete the "Agreement to Repay" (10D) form. See Initial Decision at 2. On March 19, 2025, the Agency denied the redetermination application as Petitioner had failed to sign and return the requested form. Ibid. On June 23, 2025, Petitioner reapplied for WFNJ/TANF benefits, which the Agency approved. Ibid. At the time of the hearing, Petitioner testified that she signed and timely mailed the completed "Agreement to Repay" form in the self-addressed stamped envelope provided by the Agency. See Initial Decision at 3. Petitioner requested, at the time of the hearing, that the Agency check the mailroom to ensure that her form was not received. Ibid. The Agency representative, following the hearing, had the mailroom checked and the Agency was unable to locate the mail from Petitioner. Ibid. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ found that Petitioner had failed to provide the Agency with the required form necessary to determine Petitioner's continued eligibility for WFNJ/TANF benefits, without good cause, and concluded that the Agency's denial of WFNJ/TANF benefits to Petitioner at redetermination was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.6, -2.2. I agree.

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



Officially approved final version. September 26, 2025

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

