



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
PO BOX 716

SARAH ADELMAN
Commissioner

TAHESHA L. WAY
Lt. Governor

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 **10217-25 S.D.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **S640735012 (MIDDLESEX COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's reduction of her Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits and the termination of her Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF"), and Emergency Assistance ("EA"), benefits. The Agency reduced Petitioner's SNAP benefits due to her income. The Agency terminated Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF benefits because her household income was over the maximum benefits level for continued eligibility, and terminated Petitioner's EA benefits because she was no longer a WFNJ benefits recipient. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. The matter was initially scheduled for August 22, 2025, however, Petitioner failed to appear. Petitioner requested to reschedule the hearing and on August 26, 2025, the Honorable Jeffrey N. Rabin, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On August 28, 2025, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determinations.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.1(c), once initial financial eligibility for WFNJ/TANF is found to exist, financial eligibility continues to exist so long as the total countable income of the WFNJ/TANF assistance unit (with benefit of the appropriate disregards at N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.8 for earned and unearned income) is less than the maximum benefit payment level for the appropriate eligible AU size in accordance with Schedule II at N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.3(b). For an assistance unit of three, the maximum allowable benefit level is \$559. *Ibid.*; DFD Informational Transmittal ("DFD IT") No. 19-21.

Here, the record reflects that Petitioner's assistance unit ("AU") consists of herself and two dependent children. See Initial Decision at 2. Petitioner was due for recertification of benefits during March, 2025, at which time the Agency requested various verifications including paystubs, bank accounts, etc. *Ibid.* Petitioner never responded to the Agency's Request for Verification, in relation to her recertification application, and on May 6, 2025, the Agency sent Petitioner a termination of benefits notification. *Ibid.* Also on May 6, 2025, Petitioner contacted the Agency stating that she had left her previous employer and began new employment. See Initial Decision at 3. Based upon this information, the Agency recalculated Petitioner's income based upon the paystubs provided by Petitioner. *Ibid.*; see also Exhibit R-1. Following the recalculation, the Agency determined that Petitioner's monthly earned income was \$1,413 per month. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1. Additionally, Petitioner was in receipt of child support of approximately \$1,219 per month. *Ibid.* As such, the total monthly household income of \$2,632, exceeded the maximum benefit level of \$559 per month allowable for a WFNJ/TANF benefits for an AU of three. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1, and see also DFD IT 19-21. Accordingly, the Agency terminated Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF benefits, as well as Petitioner's EA benefits as she was no longer a WFNJ benefits recipient, nor an Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") benefits recipient. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1 and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a) (limiting eligibility for EA benefits to WFNJ and SSI benefits recipients).



Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner is ineligible for WFNJ/TANF benefits because her household income exceeds the maximum benefit eligibility level, and that Petitioner is ineligible for EA benefits because she is no longer a WFNJ benefits recipient. See Initial Decision at 3-4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.3, -3.8, -3.11, -6.2(a). Accordingly, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF and EA benefits were proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 3-4; see also Exhibit R-1. 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, at the time of the hearing, the ALJ noted that the Petitioner did not challenge the reduction in SNAP benefits, and therefore, that issue was not addressed within the Initial Decision, nor it is addressed within this Final Agency Decision. See Initial Decision at 3.

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

Officially approved final version. September 25, 2025

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

