



State of New Jersey

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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 **11630-25 Y.L.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C124049013 (MONMOUTH COUNTY DIV. OF SOC. SVCS)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of his application for Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's application for WFNJ/GA contending that Petitioner's income exceeds the maximum permissible income level for receipt of WFNJ/GA. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On August 15, 2025 the Honorable Mary Ann Bogan, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On August 26, 2025, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As the Assistant Commissioner, 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 decision and hereby adopt the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law in this matter.

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 ADOPT the ALJ's Initial Decision, and AFFIRM the Agency's determination, 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). If a WFNJ/GA assistance unit (hereinafter "AU") has income that is equal to or less than the maximum allowable income or benefit level, then initial financial eligibility exists. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.1(b), -3.5(a), -3.6(a). Effective July 1, 2019, the maximum allowable income level for an employable WFNJ/GA assistance unit that consists of one individual is \$278 per month. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.5(a); see also DFD Informational Transmittal ("IT") No. 19-21. The total countable income of an 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 IT No. 19-21.

Here, the record reflects that Petitioner applied for WFNJ/GA benefits, and indicated that he receives social security benefits in the form of Retirement, Survivors and Disability Insurance benefits ("RSDI") in the amount \$2,025 each month, with a monthly \$85 medical deduction. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1. On May 29, 2025 Petitioner was sent a notice informing him that his WFNJ/GA was being denied due to his social security income. Ibid. For an assistance unit of one, such as Petitioner, the maximum income an individual receives cannot exceed \$277. Ibid.; see also N.J.A.C.



10:90-3.5. The ALJ found that Petitioner's application indicated income exceeding the maximum allowable income amount of \$277 per month. See Initial Decision at 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.5(b). Accordingly, the ALJ affirmed the Agency's denial of WFNJ/GA benefits as Petitioner's monthly income exceeded the maximum allowable income amount to determine eligibility for WFNJ/GA benefits. Ibid. I agree.

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

Officially approved final version. September 19, 2025

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

