



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 **15159-26 A.S.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **S489736014 (MORRIS CO. OFFICE OF TEMP ASSISTANCE)**

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 benefits, contending that Petitioner was ineligible for said benefits due to her inability to provide proof of citizenship. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On September 10, 2026, the Honorable Patrice E. Hobbs, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On September 11, 2026, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, reversing the Agency's determination and directing the Agency to provide Petitioner with additional time to provide requested documentation.

This office has been advised that the Agency is rescinding its denial, effective August 22, 2026, of WFNJ/GA benefits to Petitioner. Therefore, as Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I hereby ORDER and DIRECT the Agency to provide Petitioner with retroactive WFNJ/GA benefits, if it has not already done so. Further, I find that this matter has now been rendered moot, and therefore, DISMISS Petitioner's appeal.

By way of comment, Petitioner is without prejudice to reapply for Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits, if she has not already done so. Should that application result in a denial of EA benefits, Petitioner may request another fair hearing on that subsequent denial.

Accordingly, Petitioner's appeal now being deemed moot, the matter is hereby DISMISSED.

Officially approved final version. September 24, 2026

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

