State of New Jersey

MIKIE SHERRILL
Governor

VACANT
Lt. Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
PO BOX 716
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0716

STEPHEN CHA, MD, MHSR
Commissioner

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 **09238-26 C.S.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C078615011** (**MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS..**)

The record in this matter reflects that Petitioner requested a fair hearing regarding the Agency's termination of her Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits, on May 21, 2026. On June 3, 2026, Petitioner requested a fair hearing, and the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law on June 9, 2026. On July 29, 2026, the Agency rescinded the previously issued adverse action notice, and Petitioner was granted retroactive benefits. On September 2, 2026, the Honorable Diane Hoagland, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. The record was held open until the following day and closed on September 3, 2026. On September 23, 2026, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, ordering the matter be dismissed.

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 ADOPT the ALJ's Initial Decision, and DISMISS the matter, based on the discussion below.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:90-9.3(a), an applicant/recipient may request a fair hearing when he/she is adversely affected by an Agency action. Agency actions which adversely affect an applicant or recipient include any action, inaction, refusal of action, or unduly delayed action with respect to program eligibility, including denial, termination or suspension of benefits. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-9.3(b) ("County or municipal agency actions which adversely affect an applicant or recipient include any action, inaction, refusal of action, or unduly delayed action with respect to program eligibility, including denial, termination or suspension of benefits, adjustment in the level of benefits or work requirements, or designation of a protective payee.").

Here, the record reveals that, Petitioner was presented with an authorization form for reimbursement of initial Supplemental Security Income ("SSI"), or initial SSI post-eligibility payment, related to her receipt of WFNJ/GA. See Initial Decision at 2. On the face of the authorization form, Petitioner wrote "N/A," which led the Agency to terminate her WFNJ/GA benefits on May 21, 2026, due to Petitioner's failure to provide verification of her application for SSI. Ibid. Thereafter, Petitioner informed the Agency that she had not applied for SSI due to a petition being filed with the New Jersey Supreme Court related to termination of her worker's compensation benefits. Ibid. Following receipt of such information, on July 29, 2026, the Agency rescinded their adverse action, and Petitioner was issued retroactive benefits from June 1, 2026. See Initial Decision at 3.

Based on the foregoing and the record presented in this case, the ALJ found, and I agree, that, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:90-9.3(b), there is no actionable adverse action in the present matter, as the Agency had rescinded the WFNJ/GA termination and issued Petitioner retroactive benefits, and as such, the matter was now deemed moot and the ALJ dismissed the matter. See Initial Decision at 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-9.3(b).

Accordingly, the Initial Decision in this matter is hereby ADOPTED, and I deem the matter moot and it is therefore DISMISSED.

Officially approved final version. October 08, 2026

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner