



# State of New Jersey

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*Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
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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 19190-25 I.M.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C264225009 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM SVCS)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") and Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF benefits because she had exhausted the 60-month lifetime limit for WFNJ benefits and did not qualify for any further extension of benefits at the present time and terminated Petitioner's EA benefits because she was no longer a WFNJ benefits recipient, nor was she a Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") benefits recipient. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On January 8, 2026, the Honorable Evelyn J. Marose, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, admitted documents, and the record was closed. On January 12, 2026, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision in this matter, affirming the Agency's determinations.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Development, 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 determinations, based on the discussion below.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.3(a), "eligibility for cash assistance benefits shall be limited to a lifetime total of 60 cumulative months for an adult individual recipient." See also N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.1(d) ("Assistance benefits provided under WFNJ are time-limited and considered a temporary cash subsidy[.]"). However, an individual may receive additional months of cash assistance if he/she qualifies for an exemption from, or extension of, the time limit, as set forth at N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.4 and -2.5 respectively. The goal of WFNJ is help the recipient achieve self-sufficiency through obtaining employment and removal from the program. See N.J.S.A. 44:10-62(a).

Only WFNJ and SSI benefits recipients are eligible for EA benefits. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a).

Here, Petitioner had exceeded the 60-month lifetime limit for receipt of WFNJ benefits. See Initial Decision at 2. Petitioner does not dispute that she received more than 60-months of WFNJ/TANF benefits, but contends that she should qualify for an exemption from the lifetime limit, as she, and her children, are disabled. Ibid. As of the date of the hearing, neither of Petitioner's children, nor she, have been approved for receipt of Supplemental Security Income ("SSI"). Ibid. Petitioner testified that she recently applied for SSI on behalf of herself, and her children, during November and December, 2025. Ibid. Petitioner has not submitted a MED-1 form for herself to the Agency. See Initial Decision at 3.



Based on the foregoing, the ALJ in this matter found that the Agency appropriately terminated Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF benefits, as there was no evidence presented that Petitioner would qualify for an exemption from, or extension of, the lifetime limit of benefits. See Initial Decision at 3-4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.4, -2.5. I agree.

Additionally, the ALJ found that, because Petitioner no longer qualifies for WFNJ benefits, she no longer is entitled to consideration for eligibility for EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a). I also agree.

By way of comment, should Petitioner's circumstances change, and she is able to present a 12-month MED-1 form to the Agency, she is without prejudice to reapply for WFNJ/TANF benefits. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.4(a)(3).

Accordingly, the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED, and the Agency's determinations are AFFIRMED, as outlined above.

Officially approved final version. February 19, 2026

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

