



State of New Jersey

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DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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STEPHEN CHA, MD, MHSR
Commissioner

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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 **05453-26 L.H.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **S563562012 (MIDDLESEX COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's EA benefits because Petitioner was no longer a Work First New Jersey ("WFNJ") benefits recipient. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On July 9, 2026, the Honorable Samantha L. Price, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On July 23, 2026, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

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 determination, based on the discussion below.

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

In order to maintain eligibility for receipt of WFNJ benefits, a recipient must cooperate with, and participate in, the WFNJ work activity requirements. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-4.1(a). If a WFNJ recipient fails to comply with their work activities without good cause, the recipient is subject to a sanction resulting in a pro-rata reduction of WFNJ benefits for the first month. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-4.13(b). Thereafter, if the WFNJ benefits recipient is still non-compliant, without good cause, the WFNJ benefits will be suspended for one month. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-4.13(b)(1). If the non-compliance continues, the recipient's case will close the month after the suspension of WFNJ benefits. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-4.13(b)(2).

Following the loss of WFNJ cash assistance benefits due to noncompliance with required work activity, the individual must re-apply for WFNJ benefits, satisfactorily complete sanction obligations, and comply with work activities in order to be eligible for WFNJ benefits. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(e).

Here, the record shows that on September 9, 2025, Petitioner had been approved by the Agency for immediate need housing, and on December 4, 2025, Petitioner applied for EA benefits and executed an EA service plan ("SP"), wherein he acknowledged that receipt of EA benefits was contingent upon continued receipt of WFNJ benefits, or alternatively, SSI benefits. Ibid.; see also Exhibits R-1, R-4, R-5, R-6. Thereafter, on January 5, 2026, Petitioner failed to appear for his WFNJ redetermination appointment, and it was discovered that Petitioner had failed to comply with the WFNJ work requirements, which resulted in his WFNJ cash benefits being sanctioned, and led to the Agency terminating his WFNJ



benefits effective February 1, 2026. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-7, R-12, R-13. As a result, by notice dated March 3, 2026, the Agency terminated Petitioner's EA benefits, effective April 2, 2026. Ibid.; see also Exhibit R-8.

Based on the foregoing, the ALJ found that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's EA benefits, on the basis that he was not a WFNJ or SSI benefits recipient, thus making him ineligible for receipt of such benefits, was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1 and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a). I agree.

By way of comment, the Agency shall refer Petitioner to any and all agencies and organizations that may be able to assist with his current needs, including Social Services for the Homeless.

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

Officially approved final version. September 02, 2026

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

