



State of New Jersey

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DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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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 **14372-25 M.S.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C194447003 (BURLINGTON COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS)**

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 WFNJ/GA benefits, contending that Petitioner failed to provide information necessary to determine eligibility for said benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for a hearing. On December 15, 2025, and February 9, 2026, Petitioner requested adjournments, which were granted for good cause shown. On March 30, 2026, the Honorable Kimberly L. Wilson, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents into evidence. On April 10, 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 considered the ALJ's Initial Decision, and following an independent review of the record, I hereby ADOPT the Initial Decision and AFFIRM the Agency's determination, based on the discussion below.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.6(f), "[a]t the time of application, the WFNJ worker shall provide the applicant with a written list of the verification needed to determine eligibility[.]"

In relevant part, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(3), as a condition of eligibility for WFNJ cash benefits, the applicant/recipient must apply for all other assistance for which they may be eligible, and must participate in any appeals process, as appropriate. Additionally, eligibility for WFNJ/GA benefits requires the applicant to provide all necessary documentation. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5) (stating that "As a condition of eligibility for WFNJ benefits, the applicant shall, subject to good cause exceptions, be required to provide all necessary documentation.").

Here, the record reveals that Petitioner applied for WFNJ/GA benefits on June 9, 2025. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-1 at 5-12. On June 12, 2025, the Agency requested additional information from Petitioner to process Petitioner's application, indicating that he needed to return said information by June 23, 2025. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-1 at 17. Petitioner provided the Agency with all of the documents requested, except for the verification/status of applications for other benefits and his Cash App statements. Ibid. On July 16, 2025, the Agency determined that Petitioner had not applied for disability benefits as required. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-1 at 18-20 and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(3). On July 24, 2025, the Agency denied Petitioner's application for WFNJ/GA benefits, citing that he had failed to provide necessary documentation in a timely manner. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-1 at 21-22, and



N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5). Thereafter, on August 12, 2025, Petitioner submitted the Cash App statements that the Agency had requested in its June 12, 2025, letter. Ibid.

Based on the credible testimony and documentary evidence provided, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had not provided all information required to be verified to determine eligibility, and as such, the Agency's denial of WFNJ/GA benefits on July 24, 2025, was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-1 at 21-22, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5). I agree.

By way of comment, Petitioner is without prejudice to reapply for WFNJ/GA benefits, if he has not already done so, but is reminded that he must provide all information and documentation requested in order to determine eligibility.

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

Officially approved final version. May 20, 2026

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

