



State of New Jersey

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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 14845-25 T.M.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C190714003 (BURLINGTON COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS)

Petitioner appeals from Respondent Agency's denial of Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits for a period of 18 months due to the receipt of a lump sum payment from the sale of his vehicle. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On December 8, 2025, the Honorable Michael R. Stanzione, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On December 29, 2025, 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 ("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 AFFIRM the Agency's determinations, based on the discussion below.

Financial eligibility for Work First New Jersey ("WFNJ") benefits is determined based upon the assistance unit's ("AU") countable income, both earned and unearned, as well as countable resources. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.1(a).

N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.18(e), and (e)(2) state that, "[f]or purposes of determining the period of ineligibility, the WFNJ assistance unit and any other individual (such as stepparent) whose lump sum income cause the assistance unit's income to exceed the allowance standard shall be included in such determination. In the event the nonrecurring income is not reported timely, the period of ineligibility shall begin at the point the ineligibility would have occurred had the county or municipal agency had knowledge of its receipt. The amount of overpayment for the period of ineligibility must be established and recovery made."

Here, the record reveals that Petitioner, an assistance unit ("AU") of one, applied for WFNJ/GA on May 28, 2025. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-A. At the time of his application, and subsequently, Petitioner reported bank account resources and a copy of his lease. *Ibid.*; see also Supp R-1. On July 4, 2025, Petitioner faxed a letter to the Agency including additional bank statements, for a different bank account, which showed that Petitioner had received a lump sum payment of \$17,600 for the sale of his vehicle. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-B. Following receipt of the bank statements, the Agency calculated the allowable expenses for the sale of the vehicle to be \$9,823.19, based upon the purchase of a new vehicle by Petitioner, as well as the presented healthcare bills. See Initial Decision at 3. Respondent calculated the sale proceeds as follows: $\$17,600 - \$9,823.19 = \$7,776.81$ as net proceeds. *Ibid.* Using the net proceeds amount, the Agency divided this amount by \$428 (which represented 200% of the WFNJ maximum payment level for a one-person AU pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.18), and determined this amount to be 18.17 (rounded down to 18



months), which resulted in an eighteen-month disqualification period from receipt of WFNJ benefits. Ibid.; see also Exhibit R-C, N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.18(d)(1), and DFD Informational Transmittal 19-21 at 4. On July 15, 2025, the Agency denied Petitioner's WFNJ/GA application and imposed an eighteen-month disqualification period from the date of Petitioner's application, from May 28, 2025 through October 31, 2026. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-C and N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.18. Based on the evidence and testimony provided, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits was proper, and that the period of Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits ineligibility was proper. See Initial Decision at 3-4. I agree.

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

Officially approved final version. February 19, 2026

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

