



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development
P.O. Box 716
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

Chris Christie
Governor

Kim Guadagno
Lt. Governor

Elizabeth Connolly
Acting Commissioner

Natasha Johnson
Director
Tel. (609) 588-2400

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 6773-15 D.W.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA416128 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner WFNJ/GA benefits because she purportedly failed to provide the Agency with documents it had requested. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On June 10, 2015, the Honorable Evelyn J. Marose, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents.

On June 12, 2015, the ALJ issued her Initial Decision, reversing the Agency's determination. Here, the Agency denied Petitioner WFNJ/GA benefits because she failed to provide it with documentation it had requested, specifically, information showing the whereabouts and custody of her children, as well as tax information. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-2. The ALJ found that Petitioner complied with the Agency's request for the documents. *Id.* at 4. Accordingly, the ALJ reversed the Agency's denial of WFNJ/GA benefits and ordered that the Agency provide Petitioner with retroactive WFNJ/GA benefits to February 1, 2015. *Ibid.*

No Exceptions to this Initial Decision were filed.

As the Director of the 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 concur with the ALJ's final conclusion in this matter that Petitioner is eligible for WFNJ/GA benefits and hereby ADOPT the Initial Decision and REVERSE the Agency determination.

I note, however, that WFNJ/GA benefits are to be provided from the date of completion of the 28-day work activity, which the record indicates was on January 20, 2015. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.2(f)(8) and Exhibit P-2. Therefore, the Agency is directed to provide Petitioner with retroactive WFNJ/GA benefits to January 20, 2015.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision in this matter is hereby ADOPTED and the Agency's determination is REVERSED.

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

JUL -7 2015

Natasha Johnson
Director