



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 11529-15 J.V.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C136903 (MONMOUTH COUNTY DIV. 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 WFNJ/GA benefits contending that her needs are being met by her parents. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On September 11, 2015, the Honorable Joseph A. Ascione, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On September 25, 2015, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record indicates that Petitioner is an employable, 47 year old woman, who is currently being provided with educational job training, and receives Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP"), f/k/a the Food Stamp Program, benefits. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 2. Additionally, the record indicates that Petitioner lives with her parents, and does not pay rent or utilities. *Id.* at 2. Accordingly, the ALJ found that Petitioner's receipt of housing in a private home, with utilities included, far exceeds the income guidelines for WFNJ/GA eligibility, and therefore, the Agency properly denied Petitioner WFNJ/GA benefits. *Id.* at 2, 3.

No Exceptions to the 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 and hereby ADOPT the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law in this matter.

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

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

OCT 26 2015

Natasha Johnson
Director