



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development

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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 4401-15 L.A.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA554119 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of her application for Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner benefits based upon an alleged failure to comply with the work requirement. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On April 28, 2015, the Honorable Gail M. Cookson, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On May 1, 2015, the ALJ issued her Initial Decision reversing the Agency determination.

At the hearing, the ALJ found that Petitioner completed the twenty-eight day work activity as of February 17, 2015. See Initial Decision at 2. In fact, Petitioner provided a "GA Eligibility Program Completion Letter" dated February 17, 2015 from Essex County One Stop confirming that Petitioner had completed her work requirement as of that date. *Ibid.* Petitioner also produced an acknowledgment from the Agency that it received documents provided by her on February 17, 2015. *Ibid.*

Nevertheless, the Agency denied Petitioner's WFNJ/GA application on February 19, 2015 for failure to complete the job training requirement. See Initial Decision at 2. The Agency representative testified that no additional information is missing from Petitioner, and that the Agency's denial of Petitioner's application appears to be in error. *Ibid.*

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Based upon the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner established by a preponderance of the credible evidence that she has met the eligibility requirements for WFNJ/GA benefits. See Initial Decision at 3. Therefore, the ALJ ordered that the Agency's denial of Petitioner's WFNJ/GA application be reversed, and that the Agency establish WFNJ/GA benefits to Petitioner retroactive to the date of her completion of the 28-day work requirement. Ibid.

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 having made an independent review of the record, I concur with the ALJ's decision and hereby adopt the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in this matter.

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

MAY 27 2015

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

Natasha Johnson
Director