



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 6127-15 L.P.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA292074 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's determination regarding the effective date of her Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On May 27, 2015, the Honorable Richard McGill, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents.

On May 29, 2015, the ALJ issued his Initial Decision, reversing the Agency's determination. The ALJ found that upon redetermination of Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits, on December 8, 2014, her redetermination application was filed away and was never processed. See Initial Decision at 2. Thereafter, on March 9, 2015, Petitioner filed a new application for WFNJ/GA benefits and was awarded prorated WFNJ/GA benefits for March 2015. Ibid. However, the ALJ found that due to administrative error in processing Petitioner's December 8, 2014 redetermination application, she was entitled to WFNJ/GA benefits retroactive back to the date the administrative error first occurred, and ordered the Agency to provide Petitioner with a corrective payment of WFNJ/GA benefits at a rate of \$210 per month for the period from December 8, 2014, to March 8, 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 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 REVERSED.

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

JUN 23 2015

Natasha Johnson
Director