



State of New Jersey

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 8749-14 M.A.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA519158 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of his application for Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's application for WFNJ/GA benefits because he failed to provide proof that he had applied for citizenship. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On August 7, 2014, the Honorable Richard McGill, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents into evidence.

On August 12, 2014, the ALJ issued his Initial Decision affirming the Agency determination.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed by either party.

As Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have reviewed the record for this matter and the ALJ's Initial Decision, and having made an independent evaluation of the record, I hereby ADOPT the Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's action.

The WFNJ/GA Program was established in order to uniformly inspire and require all able-bodied single individuals and couples without dependent children to work rather than to receive welfare. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.1. Assistance benefits provided under WFNJ/GA are time limited and for eligible aliens, who are single adults or couples without dependent children. The benefit period is further limited based upon alien's eligibility and citizenship status. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.3(a)(3).

N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.3(a)(3)(ii) dictates that aliens who have met residency status for citizenship, "shall not receive benefits for more than six months unless they attain citizenship." The record in this matter shows that Petitioner is a valid permanent resident of the United States. See Initial Decision at 2. The record further reveals that Petitioner received WFNJ/GA benefits for 6 months and had not provided proof that he had successfully applied for citizenship. See *id.* at 2-3. As such, the ALJ found that the Agency had properly denied WFNJ/GA benefits in this case. See *id.* at 3.

I concur with the ALJ's conclusion and therefore ADOPT the ALJ's decision and AFFIRM the Agency's action.

NOV 07 2014

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

Jeanette Page-Hawkins
Director