



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development
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Chris Christie
Governor

Kim Guadagno
Lt. Governor

Elizabeth Connolly
Acting Commissioner

Natasha Johnson
Director

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 1623-15 N.B.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C072650 (SOMERSET COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals the Respondent Agency's termination of Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") because she exhausted her 60-month cumulative lifetime WFNJ limit. Additionally, Petitioner contests the termination of Emergency Assistance ("EA"). The Agency terminated EA because Petitioner was no longer a WFNJ/TANF benefits recipient. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On March 10, 2015, the Honorable Laura Sanders, Acting Director and Chief Administrative Law Judge ("CALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On March 10, 2015, the CALJ closed the record after admitting additional documents. On March 13, 2015, the CALJ issued an Initial Decision which affirmed the Agency determination.

No exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have considered the record in this matter and the CALJ's Initial Decision, and having made an independent evaluation of the record, I ADOPT the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in the Initial Decision and AFFIRM the Agency determination.

"Eligibility for cash assistance benefits shall be limited to a lifetime total of 60 cumulative months for an adult individual." N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.3(a). "At the end of an individual adult recipient's 60 cumulative months of receipt of cash assistance, the assistance unit shall no longer be eligible to receive [WFNJ] assistance." N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.3(a)(1).

Notwithstanding, "an individual who has exhausted 60 cumulative months of [WFNJ] benefits may be eligible to reapply for and receive assistance after his or her case has been closed if he or she meets the criteria for an extension or exemption." N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.4(a)(6).

Following an independent review of the record, I agree with the CALJ's findings that Petitioner exhausted substantially more than 60 months of WFNJ benefits, is not eligible for an extension, and is presently not eligible for an exemption. Initial Decision at 2-4; Exhibit R-5. Because there is no evidence that Petitioner currently meets any threshold eligibility criteria, I further agree with the CALJ's finding that the Agency appropriately terminated EA benefits. N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a).

Accordingly, the Initial Decision is ADOPTED and the Agency determination is AFFIRMED.

APR 24 2015

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

Natasha Johnson
Director