



## 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 4404-15 T.T.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA41921 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of her Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits application because she failed to comply with the WFNJ/GA work-activity requirement and the WFNJ/GA application process. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On May 29, 2015, the Honorable Jesse H. Strauss, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents.

On June 2, 2015, the ALJ issued her Initial Decision, reversing the Agency's determination. The ALJ found Petitioner had complied with the 28-day WFNJ/GA work requirement. See Initial Decision at 2, 4. Moreover, the ALJ determined that the Agency erred by imposing on Petitioner a period of WFNJ/GA ineligibility due to the time-period in which she filed her WFNJ/GA benefits application. *Id.* at 4. Therefore, the ALJ determined that Petitioner is eligible for WFNJ/GA benefits effective January 9, 2015.

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.

**JUN 23 2015**

*Signed Copy on File*  
at DFD, BARA

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Natasha Johnson  
Director