



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 15720-14 V.B.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C293867 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from Respondent Agency's termination of Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") and Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF and EA benefits because she has exhausted her lifetime limit of WFNJ/TANF benefits, and is therefore ineligible for EA benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On January 7, 2015, the Honorable Laura Sanders, Acting Director and Chief Administrative Law Judge ("CALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On January 12, 2015, the CALJ issued an Initial Decision, which affirmed the Agency's action.

No exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have reviewed the CALJ's Initial Decision and the record, and I ADOPT the CALJ's Initial Decision and AFFIRM the Agency's determination.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.3(a), "eligibility for cash assistance benefits shall be limited to a lifetime total of 60 cumulative months for an adult individual recipient." See also N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.1(d) ("Assistance benefits provided under WFNJ are time-limited and considered a temporary cash subsidy ...."). However, an individual may receive additional months of cash assistance if he/she qualifies for an

exemption to, or extension of, the time limit, as set forth at N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.4 and 2.5 respectively. The goal of WFNJ is help the recipient achieve self-sufficiency through obtaining employment and removal from the program. See N.J.S.A. 44:10-62(a).

"Only WFNJ ... recipients, including those determined eligible for WFNJ benefits based on immediate need, and Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") recipients, are eligible for emergency assistance." N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a).

The Housing Hardship Extension ("HHE") pilot "is a program for WFNJ/TANF recipients . . . ." N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.9(a)(1).

The Housing Assistance Program ("HAP") pilot is for "WFNJ/TANF/GA recipients who are determined permanently disabled and [SSI] recipients who are in imminent danger of homelessness . . . ." N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.10(a)(1).

The record in this matter reveals that Petitioner had, at the time of the hearing, received seventy eight months of WFNJ/TANF benefits, thereby exhausting her sixty-month lifetime limit of WFNJ/TANF benefits in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.1(d). See Initial Decision at 2. Further, the record does not indicate that Petitioner qualified for an exemption to, or an extension of, the sixty-month time limit, as set forth at N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.4 and -2.5, respectively. Therefore, the Agency properly terminated Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF benefits. As Petitioner is no longer WFNJ/TANF eligible, she is not eligible for EA benefits or an extension of EA benefits under either HHE or HAP because she is not a WFNJ recipient. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a), -6.9(a)(1), and -6.10(a)(1).

Based upon the foregoing, the Initial Decision is ADOPTED and the Agency's action is AFFIRMED.

**FEB 25 2015**

*Signed Copy on File*  
at DFD, BARA

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Jeanette Page-Hawkins  
Director