



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 4375-15 V.D.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA581679 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of her application for Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner benefits based upon an alleged failure to comply with the work requirement and an alleged failure to provide sufficient information. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On May 1, 2015, the Honorable Gail M. Cookson, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents into evidence.

On May 1, 2015, the ALJ issued her Initial Decision reversing the Agency's determination. The ALJ found that the evidence established Petitioner had completed the 28-day work requirement. See Initial Decision at 3. Based upon the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's action was improper.

No Exceptions to the 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 having made an independent review of the record, I concur with the ALJ's decision and hereby adopt the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in this matter.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision in this matter is ADOPTED and the Agency's action is hereby REVERSED, with the issuance of retroactive benefits to the date Petitioner completed the 28-day work requirement.

MAY 26 2015

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

Natasha Johnson
Director