



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

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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 15971-14 Z.P.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C117402 (MONMOUTH COUNTY DIV. OF SOC. SVCS)

Petitioner appeals from Respondent Agency's termination of her Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's benefits as it contended that Petitioner had exhausted her cumulative lifetime limit. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On January 16, 2015, the Honorable Joseph A. Ascione, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents. On January 29, 2015, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision affirming the Agency's determination.

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 record in this matter and the ALJ's Initial Decision and I hereby ADOPT the ALJ's decision and AFFIRM the Agency action.

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." However, an individual may receive additional months of cash assistance if he or she qualifies for an exemption to, or extension of, the time limit, or is a participant in the Supportive Assistance to Individuals and Families ("SAIF") Program, as set forth at N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.4, -2.5 and -2.20 respectively.

The ALJ in this matter found that Petitioner has exceeded her 60 month lifetime limit of WFNJ/TANF benefits having received more than 83 months of WFNJ/TANF and WFNJ/General Assistance ("GA") cash assistance. Initial Decision at 2. In addition, Petitioner has exhausted the extensions provided for under the SAIF Program. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.20(j) (indicating that an individual who has exhausted their 60-month lifetime limit of benefits is only eligible for two six-month extensions through their participation in the SAIF Program). There is nothing in the record to support that Petitioner is eligible for any exemption from, or extension to, the 60-month lifetime limit pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.4 and -2.5 respectively. *Ibid.* Therefore, the ALJ found that the Agency's termination of WFNJ/TANF benefits was appropriate. I concur.

As correctly stated by the ALJ, Petitioner is without prejudice to reapply for WFNJ benefits if she can meet any of the criteria for either an extension, under N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.3, or an exemption, under N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.4.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision in this matter is ADOPTED and the Agency's action is hereby AFFIRMED.

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

MAR 09 2015

Jeanette Page-Hawkins
Director