



State of New Jersey

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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 02626-18 E.J.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C065149002 (BERGEN COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner WFJN/TANF benefits contending that he had exhausted his lifetime limit of said benefits and that he did not meet the criteria for an extension of, or exemption from, the WFNJ/TANF benefits time limit. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On June 26, 2018, the Honorable Thomas R. Betancourt, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On June 28, 2018, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that Petitioner has received 100 months of WFNJ/TANF benefits, and as such, he has exhausted his lifetime limit of said benefits. See Initial Decision at 2, 4; see also Exhibit R-1 at 3-4, 11-25, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.3(a). In order to be granted continued WFNJ/TANF benefits, Petitioner must qualify for an extension of, or exemption from, the WFNJ benefits lifetime limit. See Initial Decision at 4-6; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.4, -2.5, and -2.6. The ALJ found that Petitioner did not have a valid 12-month MED-1 form; that in accordance with a Family Violence Option Risk Assessment, Petitioner was not a victim of domestic violence, as alleged; and that Petitioner did not meet any of the other criteria required for an extension of, or exemption from, the WFNJ/TANF benefits time limit. See Initial Decision at 2-3, 5-6; see also Exhibit R-1 at 6, 9, 29-31, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.4, -2.5, -2.6. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of WFNJ/TANF benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 6-7; see also Exhibit R-1 at 1-2. I agree.

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 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.

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

Officially approved final version.

JUL 10 2018

Natasha Johnson  
Director

