



State of New Jersey

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
PO BOX 716
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0716

ELIZABETH CONNOLLY
Acting Commissioner

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

NATASHA JOHNSON
Director
Tel: (609) 588-2000

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 17080-17 M.S.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C662273007 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

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's application for WFNJ/TANF benefits because Petitioner had exhausted her cumulative 60-month lifetime limit. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On December 14, 2017, the Honorable Gail M. Cookson, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On December 15, 2017, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the ALJ noted that Petitioner had accumulated 106 months of WFNJ/TANF cash assistance dating back to 2004. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1. Therefore, the ALJ found that Petitioner had used her cumulative lifetime limit of 60 months and did not otherwise qualify for an extension to, or exemption of, the lifetime limit. See Initial Decision at 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.3(a), -2.4, -2.5. Based on an independent review of the record, I agree with the ALJ.

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 following an independent review of the record, I concur with the ALJ's decision 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 action in this matter is AFFIRMED.

Officially approved final version.

JAN 30 2018

Natasha Johnson
Director

