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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 00388-18 V.B.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C016289017 (SALEM COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits because she had exhausted her 60-month lifetime limit of WFNJ/GA benefits and does not meet any exemption criteria. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On February 5, 2018, the Honorable Kathleen M. Calemno, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On February 16, 2018, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that, as of November 2017, Petitioner received 81 months of WFNJ/GA benefits, including 24 months of said benefits by way of the Supportive Assistance to Individuals and Families ("SAIF") program. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 7, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.20. The Agency testified that Petitioner was no longer eligible to receive WFNJ/GA benefits because she had exhausted her 60-month life-time limit, she had exhausted her 24-month SAIF eligibility, and she did not meet the criteria for an exemption from the lifetime limit of said benefits. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 9 and 10, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.4(a). The ALJ also found that Petitioner does not have a valid 12-month MED-1 form required for an exemption from the 60-month life-time limit for continued receipt of WFNJ/GA benefits. See Initial Decision at 4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.4(a)(3). Based on the forgoing, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner has exhausted her lifetime limit of WFNJ/GA benefits, and does not qualify for any additional benefits. See Initial Decision at 4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.3(a)(1). Therefore, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's termination of WFNJ/GA benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-1 at 1-5 and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.3(a)(1). 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.

Natasha Johnson
Director

MAR 28 2018

