



State of New Jersey

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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 00519-18 Z.P.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C083543002 (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 WFNJ/TANF benefits contending that she failed to apply for unemployment insurance benefits ("UIB"). Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On February 27, 2018, the Honorable Thomas R. Betancourt, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On February 28, 2018, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that Petitioner applied for WFNJ/TANF benefits on October 18, 2017. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit P-1 at 2. The Agency advised Petitioner that in order to complete the verification of her case, she must, by November 12, 2017, provide additional documentation to the Agency, including proof that she applied for UIB. See Exhibit R-1 at 2; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(3), (5). On November 17, 2017, the Agency denied Petitioner WFNJ/TANF benefits for failing to provide proof of application for UIB. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 10, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.12, -2.2(a)(3), (5). Notably, it was not until November 22, 2017, that the Agency received the requested proof of UIB from Petitioner. See Exhibit R-1 at 5, 6. The ALJ found that Petitioner did not apply for UIB during the 30 days between the date she applied for WFNJ/TANF benefits and the date benefits were denied. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit P-1 at 2 and R-1 at 5, 10. Therefore, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of WFNJ/TANF benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-1 at 10, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.12, -2.2(a)(3), (5). 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.

By way of comment, Petitioner may reapply for WFNJ/TANF benefits and is advised to provide all necessary and requested documents within the allotted time.



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

Officially approved final version.

APR - 5 2018

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Natasha Johnson

Director

