



## State of New Jersey

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*Assistant Commissioner*

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 **10793-24 C.M.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C179017009 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM 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 the 60-month lifetime limit for said benefits and did not meet the criteria for an exemption from the WFNJ/GA benefits time limit. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On October 17, 2024, the Honorable Nanci G. Stokes, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On October 18, 2024, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have reviewed the ALJ's Initial Decision and the record, and I hereby ADOPT the ALJ's Initial Decision, and AFFIRM the Agency's determination.

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." See also N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.1(d) ("Assistance benefits provided under WFNJ are time-limited and considered a temporary cash subsidy[.]"). However, an individual may receive additional months of cash assistance if he/she qualifies for an exemption from, or extension of, the time limit, as set forth at N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.4 and -2.5 respectively. The goal of WFNJ is help the recipient achieve self-sufficiency through obtaining employment and removal from the program. See N.J.S.A. 44:10-62(a).

The record in this matter shows that Petitioner has received 63 months of WFNJ/GA benefits, which exceeds the 60-month lifetime limit for receipt of WFNJ benefits. See Initial Decision at 2. In order to be granted continued WFNJ/GA benefits, Petitioner had to qualify for an exemption from the WFNJ benefits lifetime limit, however, the MED-1 form submitted by Petitioner on March 21, 2024, in an attempt to extend her benefits, was denied by the Agency as the physician that completed the form indicated Petitioner was "temporarily incapacitated" and not "permanently disabled". See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-1. In addition, Petitioner applied for Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") benefits and her application was denied in July 2023. See Initial Decision at 3. Accordingly, the ALJ found that Petitioner did not present any evidence that she meets any of the criteria required for an exemption from the WFNJ/GA benefits time limit. See Initial Decision at 4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.4. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits was proper and must stand. Ibid. I agree.

By way of comment, should Petitioner's circumstances change, she may reapply for a lifetime limit exemption pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.5(d).



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

Officially approved final version. November 14, 2024

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

