



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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NATASHA JOHNSON
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 **01502-24 D.C.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C182924003 (BURLINGTON COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA"), and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP"), benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's applications for WFNJ/GA and SNAP benefits for failure to provide information and documentation necessary to determine eligibility. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for a hearing. On March 27, 2024, the Honorable Nicole T. Minutoli, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. The record was held open until April 1, 2024 for submission of documents and then closed on that date. On April 12, 2024, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determinations.

Here, the ALJ found that Petitioner had failed to provide the Agency with the requested documentation it required to determine her eligibility for WFNJ/GA and SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision at 2. The record reflects that, in response to Petitioner's WFNJ/GA and SNAP applications on July 20, 2023, and July 21, 2023, the Agency mailed Petitioner a list of documents and information that needed to be submitted to the Agency in order to determine eligibility. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-3. Petitioner was granted expedited SNAP benefits effective July 17, 2023. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-4. On August 8, 2023, Petitioner submitted numerous documents in response to the Agency's correspondence, which was acknowledged by the Agency, however, the Agency determined additional documentation was required to determine eligibility. See Initial Decision at 4.

The record reflects that the Agency took no further action on Petitioner's applications from July 25, 2023, through January 1, 2024, and then on January 2, 2024, the Agency denied both the WFNJ/GA benefits, effective July 17, 2023, and SNAP benefits, effective September 1, 2023, stating that Petitioner failed to provide previously requested documents. See Initial Decision at 4, see also Exhibit R-4. After the denial notices issued, Petitioner contacted the Agency and submitted additional documentation. See Initial Decision at 5; see also Exhibits R-5, R-6.

The ALJ in this matter found that Petitioner had failed to timely provide the Agency with the required documentation necessary to determine Petitioner's eligibility for WFNJ/GA and SNAP benefits, and accordingly, concluded that the Agency's denial of Petitioner's applications for said benefits was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 8-9; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.14, -2.19, -2.22, -2.27; N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.6, -2.2. I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As Assistant Commissioner, 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 is without prejudice to reapply for WFNJ/GA and SNAP benefits, if she has not already done so, but is advised that she must provide all documentation necessary to determine eligibility. Petitioner is advised to communicate directly with the Agency with regards to the applications and any required documentation.

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

Officially approved final version. May 16, 2024

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

