



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
PO BOX 716

SARAH ADELMAN
Commissioner

TAHESHA L. WAY
Lt. Governor

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0716

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 **05002-24 D.M.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C176326015 (OCEAN COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") and Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits because his monthly Retirement, Survivors and Disability Insurance ("RSDI") benefits put him over the maximum allowable benefit level for WFNJ/GA benefits, and terminated Petitioner's EA benefits because he was no longer a WFNJ cash benefits recipient, nor a Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") benefits recipient. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On May 14, 2024, the Honorable Rebecca C. Lafferty, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On May 15, 2024, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that Petitioner began to receive RSDI benefits in February 2024, in the amount of \$847 per month. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibits R-2, R-3. As Petitioner's monthly RSDI income exceeded the maximum allowable monthly benefit level of \$277 for continued WFNJ/GA benefits eligibility for an unemployable assistance unit of one, by notice dated March 27, 2024, the Agency terminated Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-1, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.1(c), -3.6(a), -3.9(e) and Division of Family Development Informational Transmittal ("DFD IT") 19-21. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 4-5; see also Exhibit R-1. I agree.

Additionally, also by notice dated March 27, 2024, the Agency terminated Petitioner's EA benefits, effective April 27, 2024, because Petitioner was no longer a WFNJ, nor an SSI, benefits recipient. Id. at 3; see also Exhibit R-1, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a). Based on foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's EA benefits was also proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 5; see also Exhibit R-1. I also agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As Assistant Commissioner, DFD, 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 advised that he may reapply for EA benefits, should he apply for, and be granted SSI benefits. See Initial Decision at 2; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a).

By way of further comment, the Agency shall refer Petitioner to any and all agencies and organizations that may be able to assist with his current needs, including Social Services for the Homeless.



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

Officially approved final version. June 25, 2024

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

