



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 **01929-24 J.K.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C770016007 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's WFNJ/GA and SNAP benefits, contending that she had not provided requested documentation to complete her redetermination for WFNJ/GA benefits and the recertification for SNAP benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On April 16, 2024, the Honorable Mumtaz Bari-Brown, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On May 14, 2024, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determinations.

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 hereby MODIFY the ALJ's Initial Decision and dismiss Petitioner's appeal, based on the discussion below.

Based on an independent review of the record in this matter, the Agency conducted a redetermination for WFNJ/GA benefits and a recertification for SNAP benefits on October 16, 2023. See Initial Decision at 2. Thereafter, the Agency sent Petitioner a Request for Verification of certain information needed to determine Petitioner's eligibility for said benefits. *Ibid.*; see also Exhibit R-1. The requested information was not submitted by Petitioner until February 21, 2024, and it was at that time, that Petitioner's respective cases were reopened and retroactive benefits for both WFNJ/GA and SNAP benefits were issued for the months of January, 2024, through April, 2024, and the redetermination/recertification was therefore completed. *Ibid.* Based on the foregoing, I find that the relief sought by Petitioner, namely retroactive benefits due as a result of the redetermination/recertification, has been granted, and I therefore find that no further contested action as a result of the redetermination/recertification exists, and I hereby dismiss Petitioner's appeal. The Initial Decision is modified to reflect these findings.

By way of comment, it appears that Petitioner wished to further challenge the amount of her WFNJ/GA benefits, thus maintaining she was owed additional retroactive benefits. See Initial Decision at 2. That issue was not a part of the present case. However, based on the record presented in this matter, it appears there may still remain issues regarding an updated MED-1 form and an application for Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") benefits. *Ibid.* Therefore, Petitioner should direct any questions with respect to her WFNJ/GA benefit amount, and what is required with respect to applying for SSI benefits, to the Agency.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision is hereby MODIFIED, and Petitioner's appeal is dismissed, as outlined above.



Officially approved final version. May 23, 2024

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

