



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 **10895-24 S.A.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **S663043012 (MIDDLESEX COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits, and a denial of his application for Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's SNAP benefits, and denied Petitioner's application for WFNJ/GA benefits, contending that Petitioner had failed to provide information and documentation necessary to determine eligibility for said benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. A hearing was initially scheduled for September 3, 2024, but was adjourned at Petitioner's request and with the Agency's consent. On September 20, 2024, the Honorable Judith Lieberman, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. The record remained open until September 24, 2024, for the submission of additional documentation by both parties and then closed.

On October 1, 2024, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determinations. Here, the record reveals that Petitioner applied for WFNJ/GA and SNAP benefits on April 15, 2024. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1. Thereafter, on April 18, 2024, the Agency sent Petitioner a Request for Verification, requesting various information and documentation required to determine eligibility. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-3. The Request for Verification included a deadline for the return of the requested documentation, and advised that if the requested information was not returned, the application for benefits would be denied. Ibid. Petitioner provided documentation with respect to his resources, and following a review of same, the Agency determined that further information was needed from Petitioner with respect to the source of some deposits and the Agency requested further information. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-5. When no further clarification was received the Agency denied Petitioner's application for WFNJ/GA benefits on May 15, 2024. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-6. On that same date, Petitioner was advised by the Agency that additional information was needed to determine SNAP eligibility, must be provided within 10 days, and that Petitioner could contact the Agency if he needed assistance providing the information requested. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-7. While it is unclear from the record presented, it seems that Petitioner had been approved for SNAP benefits on an expedited basis, effective May 1, 2024, for 30 days pending receipt of additional required verification. When the required verifications were not received, the Agency terminated Petitioner's SNAP benefits effective June 1, 2024, for failure to provide information. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-8. In order to determine eligibility for SNAP and WFNJ benefits, mandatory verification of certain information is required. See N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19 and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2. Eligibility for SNAP benefits requires verification of gross non-exempt income, and verification for WFNJ benefits requires the applicant to provide all necessary documentation. See N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19(b) and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5)(stating that "As a condition of eligibility for WFNJ benefits, the applicant shall, subject to good cause exceptions, be required to provide all necessary documentation."). Based on the credible testimony and documentary evidence provided, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had not provided all information required to be verified to determine



eligibility, and as such, the Agency's denial of WFNJ/GA benefits and termination of SNAP benefits were proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 6-7; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-2.19(b) and 10:90-2.2(a)(5). 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 and SNAP benefits in his current county of residence, if he has not already done so, but is reminded that he must provide all information and documentation requested in order to determine eligibility.

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

Officially approved final version. November 04, 2024

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

