



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 **05848-24 S.E.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C184755015 (OCEAN COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner WFNJ/GA benefits, contending that he failed to provide required documentation. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On July 23, 2024, the Honorable Dean J. Buono, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On August 7, 2024, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the ALJ found that, by notice dated February 9, 2024, the Agency advised Petitioner of the documents required to determine his eligibility for WFNJ/GA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-3, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5). Petitioner had until February 20, 2024, to provide all required documents to the Agency, and within 30 days, in accordance with regulatory authority, to provide proof that he had applied for Unemployment Insurance Benefits ("UIB"). See Exhibit R-3, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(3). However, the record reflects that Petitioner had failed to timely provide the Agency with the required proof that he had applied for all other benefits that he may be eligible for, specifically, UIB. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibits R-4 through R-7, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(3). Consequently, the Agency denied WFNJ/GA benefits to Petitioner, by notice dated March 26, 2024. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-1, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.6(a), -2.2(a)(5), -2.2(d). The ALJ found that the Agency had attempted to assist Petitioner with obtaining the required documents, as required by regulation, but was unsuccessful. See Initial Decision at 4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.6(a). Based on the testimony and documentary evidence provided, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had failed to timely provide the required documentation to the Agency, and as such, concluded that the Agency's March 26, 2024, denial of WFNJ/GA benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 4-5; see also Exhibit R-1, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(3), (5), -2.2(d). I agree. Of note, the record also reflects that Petitioner had reapplied for WFNJ/GA benefits on April 16, 2024, provided all the documents required to be approved for said benefits, and began receiving those benefits effective May 16, 2024. See Initial Decision at 3.

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.

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



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Officially approved final version. September 26, 2024

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

