



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 **08713-24 T.A.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C057086002 (BERGEN COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF benefits because she had exhausted the 60-month lifetime limit for WFNJ benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On September 24, 2024 the Honorable Thomas R. Betancourt, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On September 25, 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 reviewed the ALJ's Initial Decision and the record, and I hereby ADOPT the ALJ's Initial Decision, and AFFIRM the Agency's determinations.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.3(a), "eligibility for cash assistance benefits shall be limited to a lifetime total of 60 cumulative months for an adult individual recipient." See also N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.1(d) ("Assistance benefits provided under WFNJ are time-limited and considered a temporary cash subsidy[.]"). However, an individual may receive additional months of cash assistance if he/she qualifies for an exemption from, or extension of, the time limit, as set forth at N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.4 and -2.5 respectively. The goal of WFNJ is help the recipient achieve self-sufficiency through obtaining employment and removal from the program. See N.J.S.A. 44:10-62(a).

The record in this matter clearly shows that Petitioner has received a combined total of 88 months of WFNJ benefits, 24 months of WFNJ/TANF benefits, and 64 months of WFNJ/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits, and as such, she has exceeded the 60-month lifetime limit for receipt of WFNJ benefits, with no evidence having been presented that Petitioner would qualify for an exemption from, or extension of, that lifetime limit. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-1 and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.4, -2.5. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ in this matter found that the Agency appropriately terminated Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF benefits. See Initial Decision at 3. I agree.

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



Officially approved final version. October 10, 2024

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

