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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 01527-18 C.B.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C238359007 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

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 she had exceeded the 60-cumulative-month lifetime limit for receiving said benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On February 26, 2018, the Honorable Kimberly A. Moss, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On February 26, 2018, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As the Director of the 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 determination.

Here, the record reflects that from February 1997, through July 2012, Petitioner received a lifetime cumulative total of 137 months of WFNJ benefits. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1. On December 4, 2017, Petitioner applied for WFNJ/GA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2. The Agency denied Petitioner's application for WFNJ/GA benefits because she had exceeded the 60-cumulative-month lifetime limit of WFNJ benefits. *Ibid.*, see also "Notification Form," dated December 4, 2017, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.3(a). Based on the record presented, the ALJ found that Petitioner has exhausted her lifetime limit of WFNJ benefits, that she does not meet the criteria for an exemption from, or an extension of, the lifetime limit for said benefits, and as such, that Petitioner ineligible for additional WFNJ benefits. See Initial Decision at 2, 6 and 8; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.4, -2.5. Accordingly, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of WFNJ/GA benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 8; see also "Notification Form," dated December 4, 2017, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.3(a)(1). I agree.

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

Officially approved final version.

APR 09 2018

Natasha Johnson  
Director



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