



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
PO BOX 716

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0716

CAROLE JOHNSON
Acting Commissioner

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

NATASHA JOHNSON
Director
Tel: (609) 588-2000

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 05947-18 L.G.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C090250020 (UNION COUNTY DIVISION OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA"), Emergency Assistance ("EA"), and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP"), benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On May 2, 2018, the Honorable Thomas R. Betancourt, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

Also on May 2, 2018, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination to deny Petitioner EA benefits. Here, Petitioner applied for EA benefits on April 19, 2018, and was denied by the Agency, as she was not a WFNJ/GA recipient and did not show immediate need for EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibits R-3, R-4. The ALJ agreed, and furthermore found that Petitioner had received 78 months of EA benefits, thereby exhausting the 12-month lifetime limit for said benefits, plus all available extensions. See Initial Decision at 2, 4; see also Exhibit R-7, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(a), (b), (c). I agree.

As to the remaining two transmitted issues, ALJ found that WFNJ/GA and SNAP benefits had not been denied, but rather, remained in pending status, and as such, Petitioner's appeal as to any denial of those benefits was premature. See Initial Decision at 4. Accordingly, the ALJ made no determination as to those issues. Ibid. As no adverse action notices were presented to evidence of a denial of these benefits, I also agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.

As the Director of the 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, the Agency shall refer Petitioner to any and all agencies and organizations that may be able to assist with her current needs, including Social Services for the Homeless.

By way of further comment, although denials of WFNJ/GA and SNAP benefits were transmitted issues on appeal, as stated above, and based on the record presented, I agree with the ALJ that these benefits have not yet been denied. Therefore, should Petitioner be denied WFNJ/GA and/or SNAP benefits in the future, she is without prejudice to seek a fair hearing on those denials.



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

Officially approved final version. **MAY 10 2018**

Natasha Johnson
Director

