



State of New Jersey

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DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
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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 13726-19 B.S.

AGENCY DKT. NO. S622160012 (MIDDLESEX COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits, contending that she was not a Work First New Jersey ("WFNJ"), nor a Supplemental Security Income ("SSI"), benefits recipient. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On October 4, 2019, the Honorable Jeffrey N. Rabin, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On October 4, 2019, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that Petitioner had incurred a sanction in another county for failure to comply with the WFNJ work activity, resulting in the closure of her WFNJ/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("TANF") case in that county. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibits F, R-2 at 3, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-4.13(b)(2). Petitioner then moved to Middlesex County, where she currently resides, and applied for EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 1; see also Exhibit A. However, due to the sanctioning of Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF benefits in her previous county, Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF benefits case had been closed. See Initial Decision at 3-4; see also Exhibit F. Now, as the ALJ correctly noted, Petitioner must first reapply for WFNJ/TANF benefits and come into compliance with the WFNJ work activity requirements before she is eligible for WFNJ/TANF and EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 3-4; see also Exhibit F, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-4.13(b)(3), (e). Therefore, because Petitioner is not a WFNJ or SSI benefits recipient, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner is ineligible for EA benefits, and that the Agency's denial of EA benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 4-5; see also Exhibit R-1 at 4, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a) (limiting eligibility for EA benefits to WFNJ and SSI benefits recipients). I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

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.

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



Officially approved final version.

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

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