



State of New Jersey

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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 **04221-25 A.M.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C764137002 (BERGEN COUNTY BD. 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's application for WFNJ/GA benefits, contending that Petitioner failed to provide information necessary to determine eligibility for said benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for a hearing. On June 16, 2025, the Honorable Evelyn J. Marose, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, admitted documents into evidence, and the record then closed. On June 25, 2025, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

Here, the record reveals that Petitioner applied for WFNJ/GA benefits on December 5, 2024. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-5. Petitioner, among other information, indicated within her application that she was homeless and not planning to continue to reside within New Jersey. Ibid. On December 17, 2024, the Agency sent Petitioner a Request for Verification, requesting various information and documentation required to determine eligibility. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibits R-3, R-4. The Request for Verification included a deadline for the return of the requested documentation, and advised that if the requested information was not returned, the application for benefits would be denied. Ibid. Petitioner failed to respond to the Agency by the due date of December 27, 2024, and thereafter, on January 6, 2025, the Agency denied Petitioner's application for WFNJ/GA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-2.

In order to determine eligibility for WFNJ benefits, mandatory verification of certain information is required. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2. Eligibility for WFNJ/GA benefits requires the applicant to provide all necessary documentation. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5) (stating that "As a condition of eligibility for WFNJ benefits, the applicant shall, subject to good cause exceptions, be required to provide all necessary documentation."). Based on the credible testimony and documentary evidence provided, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had not provided all information required to be verified to determine eligibility, and as such, the Agency's denial of WFNJ/GA benefits was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 3-4; see also 10:90-2.2(a)(5). I agree.

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.



Officially approved final version. July 18, 2025

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

