



## State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY  
*Governor*

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT  
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SARAH ADELMAN  
*Commissioner*

TAHESHA L. WAY  
*Lt. Governor*

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 13009-24 C.B.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C081376001 (ATLANTIC CO. DEPT OF FAM. & COM. DEV)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance to Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF benefits, for failure to provide information necessary to determine eligibility. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On November 20, 2024, the Honorable Carl V. Buck III, Administrative Law Judge, ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. The record was held open until December 2, 2024, for additional submissions and then closed. On December 23, 2024, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determinations.

Here, the ALJ found that Petitioner had failed to provide the Agency with the requested documentation required to determine her eligibility for WFNJ/TANF benefits. See Initial Decision at 2-3. The record reflects that, on July 26, 2024, in response to Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF application, the Agency mailed Petitioner a list of documents and information that needed to be submitted to the Agency in order to determine eligibility by August 6, 2024. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1. Petitioner did not provide the requested information until August 26, 2024, beyond the thirty-day period during which the Agency was obligated to conduct their review of her application in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.5(a). See Initial Decision at 3. Accordingly, the ALJ found that Petitioner had failed to timely provide the Agency with the required documentation necessary to determine Petitioner's eligibility for WFNJ/TANF benefits, and concluded that the Agency's denial of Petitioner's application for said benefits was proper and must stand. Id. at 4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.6, -2.2. 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.

By way of comment, Petitioner is without prejudice to reapply for WFNJ/TANF benefits, if she has not already done so, but is advised that she must provide all documentation necessary to determine eligibility. Petitioner is advised to communicate directly with the Agency with regards to the applications and any required documentation.

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



Officially approved final version.

February 13, 2025

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Natasha Johnson

Assistant Commissioner

