



State of New Jersey

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Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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SARAH ADELMAN
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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 10314-25 F.C.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C281509020 (UNION COUNTY DIVISION OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner challenges the correctness of the Respondent Agency's claim for recovery of Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") benefits issued to Petitioner between October, 2023 and February, 2024 and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits issued to Petitioner between October, 2023 and February, 2024, as well as between May, 2024 and October, 2024. The Agency asserts that Petitioner received WFNJ/TANF and SNAP benefits to which she was not entitled, thereby resulting in the overissuance of benefits which must be repaid. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for a hearing. On August 11, 2025, the Honorable Irene Jones, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, admitted documents into evidence, and the record then closed. On September 10, 2025, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determinations.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.

As Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Development ("DFD"), Department of Human Services, I have considered the ALJ's Initial Decision, and following an independent review of the record, I hereby ADOPT the ALJ's Initial Decision, and AFFIRM the Agency actions, based on the discussion below.

In the instance of an overpayment of benefits, the Agency must recoup the overissuance. See N.J.A.C. 10:87-11.20. One type of overpayment which is subject to recoupment is one which results from "a misunderstanding or unintended error on the part of the household" receiving benefits, called an "Inadvertent Household Error" ("IHE"). See N.J.A.C. 10:87-11.20(e)(2). Repayment of overissuances may be sought for up to six years following the time that the Agency becomes aware of the overpayment. See N.J.A.C. 10:87-11.20(f)(1)(i).

Similarly, under the WFNJ regulations, a WFNJ benefits recipient is required to satisfy any repayment obligation pursuant to state or Federal law governing public assistance. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(7). WFNJ assistance units are required to inform the Agency of any change in income and circumstances that would affect eligibility no later than 10 days after the change happened, or in the case of earnings, no later than 10 days from the date of receipt of the first paycheck. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.11(e); see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-9.5(b)(1)(i) (requiring a SNAP household to report a change in income within 10 days from the day of receipt of the first paycheck).

Here, the record reflects that Petitioner failed to accurately report income earned from one of her employers during the time when she was receiving WFNJ/TANF and SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1. The Agency discovered additional employment income via the New Jersey Department of Labor DOVE system, which information was utilized to determine that WFNJ/TANF benefits had been overissued in the amount of \$2,125 from October, 2023 through



February, 2024 and that SNAP benefits had been overissued in the amount of \$4,932 from October, 2023 through February, 2024 and then from May, 2024 through October, 2024. Ibid. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ in this case found that the Agency had met its burden in establishing, by a preponderance of the credible evidence, that Petitioner received overissuances of WFNJ/TANF and SNAP benefits to which she was not entitled, in the total amount of \$7,057, which must now be repaid. See Initial Decision at 3; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-5.4(a)(1), -9.5, -11.20, N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.21(a)(1), (2), (3). I agree.

I ORDER and direct that the Agency proceed to recoup the overissuances.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision in this matter is hereby ADOPTED and the Agency's determination is AFFIRMED, as outlined above.

Officially approved final version. October 02, 2025

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

