



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 **12425-25 J.B.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **S670670012 (MIDDLESEX COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF"), Emergency Assistance ("EA"), and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's applications 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 July 16, 2025, the Honorable Deirdre Hartman-Zohlman, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, admitted documents into evidence, and the record then closed. On July 17, 2025, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, reversing the Agency's determinations.

Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received by the Agency on July 21, 2025. The Agency Exceptions provided that, following the hearing in this matter, the Petitioner submitted additional information to the Agency and the Agency was able to determine that Petitioner was eligible for receipt of WFNJ/TANF benefits. In addition, the Agency reinstated Petitioner's EA benefits to allow her a reasonable period of time to document the circumstances of her housing emergency. I also take official notice of the fact that the records of this office indicate that payments for WFNJ/TANF and SNAP benefits have been issued to Petitioner as of the date of this Final Agency Decision. See N.J.A.C. 1:1-15.2(a) and N.J.R.E. 201(b)(4). As all issues transmitted to the OAL have now been resolved, I find that no contested issues remain in this matter and the case is therefore moot.

Based on the foregoing, as Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I find that, as no contested case exists and this matter has now been rendered moot, Petitioner's appeal may be DISMISSED.

Accordingly, Petitioner's appeal now being deemed moot, the matter is hereby DISMISSED.

Officially approved final version. July 31, 2025

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

