



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
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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 **11394-25 M.B.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C246091016 (PASSAIC COUNTY BOARD 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 WFNJ/GA benefits, contending that his monthly income exceeded the WFNJ/GA benefits initial financial eligibility limits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On August 4, 2025, the Honorable Nanci G. Stokes, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On August 7, 2025, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

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

Financial eligibility for WFNJ/GA benefits is determined based upon the assistance unit's ("AU") countable income, both earned and unearned, as well as countable resources. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.1(a). If a WFNJ/GA assistance unit (hereinafter "AU") has income that is equal to or less than the maximum allowable income or benefit level, then initial financial eligibility exists. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.1(b), -3.5(a), -3.6(a). Effective July 1, 2019, the maximum allowable income level for an employable WFNJ/GA assistance unit that consists of one individual is \$278 per month. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.5(a); see also DFD Informational Transmittal ("IT") No. 19-21. The total countable income of an unemployable single adult, or couple without dependent children, must be equal to or less than the maximum benefit payment level for the size of the assistance unit as set out in Schedule V at N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.6(a). See N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.1(b)(1). Effective July 1, 2019, the maximum benefit level for an unemployable WFNJ/GA AU, consisting of one person, is \$277 per month. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.6(a); see also DFD IT No. 19-21.

Here, Petitioner submitted an application for WFNJ/GA benefits on May 12, 2025, and thereafter, the Agency scheduled an interview for May 20, 2025. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 3(a). At the time of the interview, the Agency representative requested that Petitioner provide three months of bank statements, and Petitioner responded that he would do so, but would redact the banking records. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1 at 3(b). Petitioner submitted bank statements to the Agency from February 6, 2025 to March 5, 2025, from March 6, 2025 to April 3, 2025, and from April 4, 2025, to May 5, 2025, which noted various deposits however, Petitioner redacted all details of the deposit transactions. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 4-22. In an attempt to assist the Petitioner, the Agency representative assessed Petitioner's financial eligibility based upon the information available, by adding the three months of deposits to his bank account, a total of \$937.25, and dividing by three to determine an approximate



monthly income. See Initial Decision at 3. In accordance with applicable regulatory authority, Petitioner's monthly income of \$312, exceeded the maximum allowable income level for receipt of WFNJ/GA benefits for an employable individual, and also exceeded the maximum benefit level for an unemployable individual. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1 at 23, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.4(a), -3.5(a), -3.6(a) and DFD IT No. 19-21. On June 2, 2025, Petitioner's WFNJ/GA application was denied. See Initial Decision at 3. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Petitioner had an obligation to provide the appropriate verifications to demonstrate his financial eligibility and failed to do so and that, upon the Agency's consideration of Petitioner's finances, the Agency's denial of Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 5; see also Exhibit R-1. I agree.

By way of comment, Petitioner is without prejudice to reapply for WFNJ/GA benefits, as appropriate, should his circumstances have changed but is reminded that he must supply the required, unredacted documentation requested to verify eligibility for any such benefits.

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

Officially approved final version. September 19, 2025

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

