



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
PO BOX 716

SARAH ADELMAN
Commissioner

TAHESHA L. WAY
Lt. Governor

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 15608-24 N.M.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C132453008 (GLOUCESTER COUNTY DIV. OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits, and subsequent denial of continued Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits. Upon a redetermination, the Agency terminated Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits, contending that she failed to provide required documentation, and thereafter, denied Petitioner continued WFNJ/GA benefits, contending that her monthly unearned income exceeded the WFNJ/GA benefits maximum financial eligibility limits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On December 5, 2024, the Honorable Rebecca C. Lafferty, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. The record closed on that date, but was reopened on December 10, 2024, to allow for additional information to be submitted, and closed again on December 11, 2024.

On December 12, 2024, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the ALJ in this matter issued a very thorough and comprehensive Initial Decision, outlining the procedural history, providing a detailed factual timeline, and rendering a well thought out analysis, applying law to fact. See Initial Decision at 2-6. Specifically, the ALJ found, and the record substantiates, that upon a redetermination for continued WFNJ/GA benefits, Petitioner's monthly unearned income, provided by family and friends, for the months of August 2024, and September 2024, was \$407.50. See Initial Decision at 3, 5-6; see also Exhibit R-1 at 24-48. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ found that Petitioner's monthly unearned income was greater than both the initial maximum allowable income level for a one-person household of \$278, as well as the maximum benefit payment level for a one-person household of \$185. See Initial Decision at 4-6; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.1(a), (b), -3.4(a), (b), -3.5(a), (b), and Division of Family Development Informational Transmittal ("DFDIT") No. 19-21. Accordingly, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of continued WFNJ/GA benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 6; see also Exhibit R-1 at 56-61. I agree.

Additionally, the ALJ found that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits for failure to provide required documentation was proper. See Initial Decision at 2, 5; see also Exhibit R-1 at 50-55; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.6, -2.2(a) (5). However, the ALJ also found that Petitioner had subsequently provided most of the required documents to the Agency, and that upon submission of said documents, the Agency reevaluated Petitioner's redetermination application, and consequently denied continued WFNJ/GA benefits to Petitioner, as discussed above. See Initial Decision at 3, 5-6. Although Petitioner claimed that the Agency's "Request for Verification" notice was sent to the wrong address, the ALJ found, and the record substantiates, that said notice was mailed to the correct address. See Initial Decision at 4-5; see also Exhibit R-1 at 23. Accordingly, the ALJ found that the WFNJ/GA termination issue, while valid, is moot. *Id.* at 5. I agree.



Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed by Petitioner on December 23, 2024.

As Assistant Commissioner, DFD, 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 advised that should her circumstances change, she may reapply for WFNJ/GA benefits.

By way of further comment, I have reviewed Petitioner's Exceptions, and I find that the arguments made therein do not alter my decision in this matter.

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

Officially approved final version. January 28, 2025

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

