



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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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 **06843-25 R.B.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **S670625012 (MIDDLESEX COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits, as well as Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency contends that Petitioner failed to provide all required documentation needed to determine WFNJ/GA benefits eligibility. Further, Petitioner was denied EA benefits because she was not a WFNJ/GA benefits recipient, nor was she a Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") benefits recipient. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On April 25, 2025, the Honorable William T. Cooper III, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On April 28, 2025, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determinations.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As Assistant Commissioner, Division of Family Development, 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 determinations, based on the discussion below.

In order to determine eligibility for WFNJ/GA benefits, mandatory verification of certain information is required. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2. Verification for WFNJ/GA benefits requires the applicant to provide all necessary documentation. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5) (stating that "As a condition of eligibility for WFNJ benefits, the applicant shall, subject to good cause exceptions, be required to provide all necessary documentation.").

Only WFNJ cash assistance recipients and SSI benefits recipients are eligible for EA benefits. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a).

Here, the record reveals that Petitioner applied for WFNJ/GA and EA benefits on March 7, 2025, and on that same date, was provided with a letter from the Agency requesting documentation necessary to determine eligibility for said benefits, specifically "Chime" and "Cash App" statements with all deposits verified and explained. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibits R-1, R-2. On March 7, 2025, the Agency provided Petitioner immediate need motel placement pending the determination of her eligibility for WFNJ benefits. See Initial Decision at 3. On April 7, 2025, Petitioner provided the Agency a portion of the verifications requested; the Agency sent a second request for verifications specifically requesting a "Cash App" statement, and verification Petitioner could not access her "Chime" account, within 10 days. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibits R-1, R-2. When the information requested on April 7, 2025, was not received by the due date, the Agency denied Petitioner EA benefits on April 17, 2025. See Initial Decision at 3. On April 21, 2025, Petitioner's immediate need motel placement ceased due to the denial of WFNJ benefits. Id. at 4; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a). Based on the testimonial and documentary evidence presented, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of WFNJ/



GA and EA benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 5; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5), -6.3(a)(1)(ii). I agree.

By way of comment, Petitioner is without prejudice to reapply for WFNJ/GA and/or EA benefits should she continue to need benefits and is otherwise eligible for same in accordance with N.J.A.C. 10:90- 2.2, et seq., -6.1 et seq., but is reminded that she must provide all required documentation needed to determine eligibility for benefits.

By way of further comment, the Agency shall refer Petitioner to any and all agencies and organizations that may be able to assist with her current needs, including Social Services for the Homeless.

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

Officially approved final version. May 06, 2025

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

