



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 **00793-25 T.O.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **S478539014 (MORRIS CO. OFFICE OF TEMP ASSISTANCE)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner WFNJ/GA benefits, contending that Petitioner failed to verify 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 March 6, 2025, the Honorable Susana E. Guerrero, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, admitted documents into evidence, and the record then closed. On March 19, 2025, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

Here, Petitioner applied for WFNJ/GA benefits on October 21, 2024, and had an intake interview with the Agency on October 25, 2024. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-1. On October 25, 2024, the Agency sent Petitioner a Request for Verification form requesting that he provide a letter of support from his mother, with whom he resided, a telephone bill, a signed rental letter, proof of address, proof of citizenship, a MED-1 form, and signed signature pages and addenda, all of which was to be provided by October 31, 2024. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-2. Petitioner did provide certain information and verifications to the Agency however, on November 20, 2024, Petitioner's WFNJ/GA application was denied, as Petitioner failed to provide required signed addenda, did not complete his required interview, and did not provide a letter of support from his mother. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibits R-3, R-4, R-5, R-7. On November 25, 2024, five days after the denial of his application, Petitioner provided the Agency with the signed addenda, and a rental letter appearing to be from his mother. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibits R-8, R-9, R-10. The documents were not timely received and Petitioner had not previously requested an extension of time for the provisions of such documents. See Initial Decision at 3. Petitioner did not complete his required interview prior to November 20, 2024, when he was denied benefits. *Ibid.* Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had not timely provided the information required to be verified to determine eligibility, and as such, the Agency's denial of WFNJ/GA benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. *Id.* at 3-4; see also Exhibit R-7 and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2. I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.

As the Assistant Commissioner of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have reviewed the record and the Initial Decision, and having made an independent evaluation of the record, I concur with the ALJ's Initial Decision, and hereby adopt the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in this matter.

By way of comment, Petitioner is without prejudice to reapply for WFNJ/GA benefits, if he has not already done so, but is reminded that he must provide all required information and documentation necessary to determine eligibility.



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

Officially approved final version. May 08, 2025

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

