



State of New Jersey

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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
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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 **09992-25 V.K.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **S736014009 (HUDSON COUNTY DEPT OF FAM 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 he failed to provide proof of a Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") benefits application, or appeal, required for WFNJ/GA benefits eligibility. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On September 11, 2025, the Honorable Evelyn J. Marose, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, admitted documents, and the record was held open to allow the parties the opportunity to submit additional documentation. The record was closed on September 22, 2025. On October 15, 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, Department of Human Services, I have considered the ALJ's Initial Decision, and following an independent review of the record, I hereby ADOPT the Initial Decision and AFFIRM the Agency's determination, based on the discussion below.

An applicant or recipient of WFNJ benefits may be required to apply for various benefits including SSI. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.12. An applicant or recipient who refuses or neglects to apply for these benefits within 30 days of written notification, without good cause, shall be ineligible to receive cash assistance. Ibid.

WFNJ/GA benefits recipients who are unable to engage in regular work activities due to chronic illness and/or a physical or mental disability or impairment, may be deferred from the mandatory work requirement upon presentation of a 12-month MED-1 form. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-4.10(a)(2). Additionally, individuals who receive a work deferral due to a permanent disability will be required to apply for SSI benefits. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-4.10(a)(2)(i).

Here, Petitioner applied for WFNJ/GA benefits on October 30, 2024, and submitted a MED-1 form dated May 29, 2024, upon which his physician indicated that he had been permanently disabled since 2016. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-4. The Agency advised Petitioner that he would need to provide proof of an application for, or appeal regarding, SSI benefits to which he may be entitled. See Initial Decision at 2. Petitioner provided no verification of an application, or appeal, for SSI benefits and, as a result, the Agency denied Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits application on March 14, 2025. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit R-2. At the time of the hearing, Petitioner testified that he was denied SSI benefits during July 2023, and thereafter filed an appeal of the denial, however, he acknowledged that he did not provide the Agency with any denial, or proof of appeal, of SSI benefits prior to the date of the Agency's March 14, 2025 denial. See Initial Decision at 2.



As outlined above, applicable regulatory authority requires WFNJ benefits recipients to apply for any or all other benefits, including SSI, for which they may be eligible. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.12, -2.2(a)(3), -4.10(a)(2)(i). Based on Petitioner's failure to provide proof of an application or appeal for SSI benefits as required, and no good cause having been established for such failure to cooperate or comply with the applicable regulations, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's March 14, 2025, denial of Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-4, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.12, 2.2(a)(3), (5). I agree.

By way of comment, Petitioner is without prejudice to reapply for WFNJ/GA benefits, but is reminded that he must provide all required documentation needed to determine his WFNJ/GA benefits eligibility.

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

Officially approved final version. November 25, 2025

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

