



State of New Jersey

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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 **05698-26 A.A.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C242398013 (MONMOUTH COUNTY DIV. OF SOC. SVCS)**

Petitioner challenges the correctness of the Respondent Agency's determination of Petitioner's Work First New Jersey/ General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits amount for March 2026. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for a hearing. This matter was initially scheduled to be heard on May 20, 2026, at which time Petitioner requested an adjournment, which was granted. On June 23, 2026, the Honorable Nicole T. Minutoli, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents into evidence. On June 25, 2026, 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 in this matter and AFFIRM the Agency's determination, based on the discussion below.

In order to determine eligibility for WFNJ benefits, mandatory verification of certain information is required. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2. Eligibility 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.").

Here, the record reveals that Petitioner was due for a redetermination of WFNJ/GA benefits in March, 2026, and, as such, was sent a Notice of Expiration by the Agency on January 2, 2026, which included information about a redetermination interview on January 22, 2026. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-1. The Agency scheduled a redetermination telephone interview for January 22, 2026; however, Petitioner's mother (her representative) did not answer the telephone on that date. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-2. On January 22, 2026, the Agency sent Petitioner a Notice of Missed Interview, informing Petitioner that she had missed her scheduled telephone interview and that she must contact the Agency to reschedule the interview. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-2. On January 30, 2026, the Agency conducted the telephone interview with Petitioner and her mother and the Agency representative mailed a Statement of Understanding which requested various verifications, as well as the WFNJ/GA application, and addendums, which required a signature prior to their return to the Agency. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-3. The documents requested in the Statement of Understanding, as well as the signed WFNJ/GA application and addendums were not returned to the Agency. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-4. On March 13, 2026, Petitioner's mother contacted the Agency regarding Petitioner's March 2026 WFNJ/GA benefits not being received, at which time the Agency representative informed her that the signed application and addendums and verification documents had not



been received. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibit R-5. On March 16, 2026, Petitioner and her mother submitted a new WFNJ/GA application in person at the Agency and thereafter Petitioner provided the Agency with all requested verifications. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibits R-6, R-7. Subsequently, on March 26, 2026, the Agency approved Petitioner's WFNJ/GA application, and issued pro-rated benefits from March 16, 2026, the date that the application and all required documentation were received. Ibid.

Based on the foregoing, the ALJ found that Petitioner had failed to submit the signed WFNJ/GA application, and addendums, as well as all of the verifications requested to the Agency prior to the end of her redetermination of benefits time period. See Initial Decision at 2,4. Accordingly, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner was ineligible for WFNJ/GA benefits for the period of March 1, 2026, to March 16, 2026, the date upon which a new WFNJ/GA benefits application, and all required verifications, were submitted. See Initial Decision at 4-5; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5). I agree.

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

Officially approved final version. August 04, 2026

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

