



State of New Jersey

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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 **14884-25 D.W.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C228270004 (CAMDEN-CCBSS)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of her application for Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's application for WFNJ/GA benefits, contending that she had exhausted her 60-month cumulative lifetime limit of WFNJ cash benefits, and did not qualify for an exemption from said lifetime limit. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On November 25, 2025, the Honorable Tama B. Hughes, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On December 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.

"Eligibility for cash assistance benefits shall be limited to a lifetime total of 60 cumulative months for an adult individual." See N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.3(a). "At the end of an individual adult recipient's 60 cumulative months of receipt of cash assistance, the assistance unit shall no longer be eligible to receive [WFNJ] assistance." See N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.3(a)(1). However, an individual may receive additional months of cash assistance if he/she qualifies for an exemption from, or extension of, the time limit, as set forth at N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.4 and -2.5, respectively. In relevant part, a recipient is exempt from the 60-month cumulative lifetime WFNJ limit if a "physical or mental impairment, defect or injury prevents him or her from engaging in full-time employment for a period of 12 or more months on a minimum of one WFNJ/MED-1, Examination Report." N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.4(a)(3)(i).

Here, Petitioner, who had previously received WFNJ benefits from 2007 to 2013, applied for WFNJ/GA benefits on July 14, 2025, after which she was interviewed via telephone by the Agency on July 21, 2025. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1. Following an internal review of her application, the Agency determined that Petitioner had already received more than 60 months of WFNJ/GA benefits, and as such, she had exhausted her lifetime limit for said benefits. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-2 and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.3(a). The Agency then requested that Petitioner provide a MED-1 form completed by her treating physician, which may allow for an exemption from the 60-month lifetime limit. See Initial Decision at 3. On July 24, 2025, Petitioner's treating physician submitted a MED-1 form, however, the physician indicated on the form that it was only valid from July 24, 2025 to November 30, 2025. Ibid.; see also Exhibit R-3. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ found that Petitioner had failed to submit a valid one-year MED-1 form, and, as a regulatory condition for an exemption from the WFNJ/GA benefits 60-month lifetime limit, Petitioner was required to



provide the Agency with a MED-1 form indicating a 12-month permanent disability. See Initial Decision at 4-5; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(3), -2.4(a)(3)(1). Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of Petitioner's application for WFNJ/GA benefits was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 5. I agree.

By way of comment, Petitioner is without prejudice to reapply for WFNJ/GA benefits, but is reminded that she must obtain a valid MED-1 form indicating a 12-month permanent disability.

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

Officially approved final version. January 29, 2026

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

