



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 **02931-26 F.L.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **C128635003 (BURLINGTON COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's application for WFNJ/GA benefits, contending that Petitioner failed to provide 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 January 1, 2026, the Honorable Michael R. Stanzione, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents into evidence. On June 5, 2026, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination.

Here, the record reveals that Petitioner applied for WFNJ/GA benefits, and thereafter had a telephone interview with the Agency on December 12, 2025, wherein he was asked to explain how he was paying his portion of his monthly \$3,100 mortgage. See Exhibit R-1. Petitioner indicated that his significant other contributed \$1,500 towards the mortgage each month and that he "works odd jobs." Ibid. Thereafter, the Agency sent Petitioner a Request for Verification requiring that he submit three months of self-employment ledgers for the jobs he completed. Ibid. Petitioner failed to complete and submit such documentation. Ibid.; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2. On January 21, 2026, the Agency sent Petitioner a denial notification indicating that his WFNJ/GA benefits application was denied effective January 1, 2026, due to his failure to provide verification of self-employment. Ibid.

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."). Based on the credible testimony and documentary evidence provided, the ALJ concluded that Petitioner had not provided all information required to be verified to determine eligibility, and as such, the Agency's denial of WFNJ/GA benefits on January 21, 2026, was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 2, 5; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5). I agree.

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 concur with the ALJ's final conclusion in this matter and hereby ADOPT the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law.

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 information and documentation requested in order to determine eligibility.



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

Officially approved final version. July 16, 2026

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

