



State of New Jersey

MIKIE SHERRILL
Governor

DR. DALE G. CALDWELL
Lt. Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
PO BOX 716

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0716

STEPHEN CHA, MD, MHSR
Commissioner

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 14953-25 J.D.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C192774015 (OCEAN COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS.)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's termination of Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA"), and Emergency Assistance ("EA"), benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits, contending that the assistance unit's income exceeded the WFNJ/GA benefits financial eligibility limits, and terminated Petitioner's EA benefits because he was no longer a WFNJ/GA cash benefits recipient, nor a Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") benefits recipient. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On December 3, 2025, the Honorable Judith Lieberman, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On December 12, 2025, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determinations.

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 determinations, based on the discussion below.

In order to be eligible for Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ'GA") benefits, the total countable income of the unemployable single adult, or couple without dependent children, must be equal to or less than the maximum benefit payment level for the size of the assistance unit as set out in Schedule V at N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.6(a). See N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.1(b)(1). Effective July 1, 2019, the maximum benefit level for an unemployable WFNJ/GA AU, consisting of one person, is \$277 per month. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.6(a); see also DFD Informational Transmittal ("IT") No. 19-21.

Only WFNJ cash assistance recipients and Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") benefits recipients are eligible for EA benefits. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a).

Here, the ALJ found, and the record substantiates, that Petitioner was in receipt of monthly WFNJ/GA benefits, when, in August, 2025, Petitioner began receiving monthly payments of Retirement, Survivors, and Disability Insurance ("RS defense DI") benefits in the amount of \$1,862. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibits R-1, R-2. As a result of Petitioner's receipt of monthly RS defense DI benefits, the Agency determined that Petitioner's monthly income exceeded the maximum benefit level of \$277 for continued receipt of WFNJ/GA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-1; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.6(a), and DFD IT No. 19-21. Based on the foregoing, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1. I agree.



The ALJ further found that, because Petitioner is neither a WFNJ, nor an SSI, benefits recipient, the household is ineligible for EA benefits, and as such, concluded that the Agency's termination of Petitioner's EA benefits was also proper and must be affirmed. See Initial Decision at 4; see also Exhibits EA R-1, EA R-2, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a). I also agree.

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

