



# State of New Jersey

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*Governor*

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 **21398-25 M.V.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **S601335012 (MIDDLESEX COUNTY BD. OF SOC. SVCS.)**

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF benefits application because she had exhausted the 60-month lifetime limit for WFNJ benefits and did not qualify for any further benefits at the present time. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On January 27, 2026, the Honorable Jeffrey N. Rabin, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a telephonic plenary hearing, took testimony, admitted documents, and the record was closed. On February 5, 2026, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision in this matter, 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 reviewed the ALJ's Initial Decision and the record, and I hereby MODIFY the ALJ's Initial Decision, and AFFIRM the Agency's determination, based on the discussion below.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.3(a), "eligibility for cash assistance benefits shall be limited to a lifetime total of 60 cumulative months for an adult individual recipient." See also N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.1(d) ("Assistance benefits provided under WFNJ are time-limited and considered a temporary cash subsidy[.]"). 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. The goal of WFNJ is help the recipient achieve self-sufficiency through obtaining employment and removal from the program. See N.J.S.A. 44:10-62(a).

Here, the record reveals that Petitioner has received 109 total months of WFNJ benefits, and as such, has exceeded the 60-month lifetime limit for receipt of WFNJ benefits. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibits R-1, R-2, R-3; and N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.1(a). On October 30, 2025, Petitioner submitted a new WFNJ/TANF application, and, at her interview on November 5, 2025, she informed the Agency that she had previously received WFNJ/TANF benefits, at which time it was determined that Petitioner had previously received 109 months of said benefits, and the Agency sent a denial notice on November 26, 2025. See Initial Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-6.

Although the ALJ makes reference to Petitioner attempting to receive continuing WFNJ/TANF benefits via the completion of a Supportive Assistance for Individuals and Families ("SAIF") application, there is no such application. Rather, the SAIF program, referenced by the ALJ, assists eligible WFNJ recipients to become self-sufficient before they exhaust their 60-month WFNJ lifetime limit. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.20(a). The 24-month program offers intensive case management



to individuals who have received 48 months of WFNJ benefits, who have complied with WFNJ requirements, have not become self-sufficient, and who do not appear to be exempt from the 60-month lifetime limit under N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.4. Ibid. SAIF participants are eligible for an extension of WFNJ cash benefits, social, and work support services for up to 12 additional months beyond the 60-month lifetime limit, or a maximum of 72 months. N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.20(c) and (g).

Based on the foregoing, the ALJ in this matter found that the Agency appropriately denied Petitioner's WFNJ/TANF benefits application, as there was no evidence presented that Petitioner would qualify for an exemption from, or extension of, the lifetime limit of benefits. See Initial Decision at 3-4; see also Exhibits R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4, R-5, R-6, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.4, -2.5. I agree, however, the Initial Decision is modified to reflect that Petitioner would not have been eligible for the SAIF program, at the time of her new application, due to having exceeded 72 months of receipt of WFNJ/TANF benefits. Additionally, Petitioner has not established eligibility for an exemption from, or an extension of, the lifetime limit which would make her eligible for continued WFNJ benefits. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.4, -2.5

By way of comment, should Petitioner's circumstances change, and she is able to present a 12-month MED-1 to the Agency, she is without prejudice to reapply for WFNJ/TANF benefits. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.4(a)(3).

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

Officially approved final version. April 09, 2026

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Natasha Johnson  
Assistant Commissioner

