



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 **04657-26 R.G.**

AGENCY DKT. NO. **S459099001 (ATLANTIC CO. DEPT OF FAM. & COM. DEV)**

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 he failed to provide proof of a Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") benefits application, among other information, necessary for the Agency to determine eligibility for WFNJ/GA benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On May 22, 2026, the Honorable Carl V. Buck III, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. The record was then held open to allow for the submission of additional documentation and closed on June 1, 2026. On June 9, 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 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.").

An applicant or recipient of WFNJ benefits may be required to apply for various benefits including SSI benefits. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.12. An applicant or recipient who refuses or neglects to apply for these benefits within 30 days of written notification, without good cause, shall be ineligible to receive cash assistance. Ibid.

WFNJ/GA benefits recipients who are unable to engage in regular work activities due to chronic illness and/or a physical or mental disability or impairment, may be deferred from the mandatory work requirement upon presentation of a 12-month MED-1 form. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-4.10(a)(2). Additionally, individuals who receive a work deferral due to a permanent disability will be required to apply for SSI benefits. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-4.10(a)(2)(i).

Here, the record reveals that Petitioner applied for WFNJ/GA benefits on October 29, 2025, and that the Agency sent Petitioner notification on November 3, 2025, that he needed to submit proof of an SSI application, as well as a MED-1 form. See Initial Decision at 2-3; see also Exhibit R-1. On December 1, 2025, the Agency denied Petitioner's application for WFNJ/GA benefits, indicating that he had failed to provide necessary documentation in a timely manner. See Initial



Decision at 3; see also Exhibit R-1 and N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5). At the time of the hearing, Petitioner testified that he provided information to the Agency on February 13, 2026, although what information was provided, and whether or not it would have fulfilled the Agency's previous requests, is unclear. See Initial Decision at 3.

As outlined above, applicable regulatory authority requires WFNJ benefits recipients to apply for any or all other benefits, including SSI, for which they may be eligible. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.12, -2.2(a)(3), -4.10(a)(2)(i). In the present matter, Petitioner was required to provide the Agency with proof that he had applied for SSI benefits by November 13, 2025. See Exhibit R-1, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.12, 2.2(a)(3), (5). The ALJ found that Petitioner had failed to provide any information to the Agency until February, 2026, which was after the Agency's December 1, 2025, notice of termination, and without good cause. See Initial Decision at 5-6; see also Exhibit R-1, N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.12, -2.2(a)(3), (5), -4.10(a)(2)(i). Based on Petitioner's failure to apply for SSI benefits as required, and failure to provide a one-year MED-1 form, and with no good cause having been established for such failure to cooperate or comply with the applicable regulations, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's December 1, 2025, denial of WFNJ/GA benefits was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 6; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5). I agree.

By way of comment, Petitioner is without prejudice to reapply for WFNJ/GA benefits, but is reminded that he must provide all required documentation needed to determine his WFNJ/GA benefits eligibility.

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

Officially approved final version. July 16, 2026

Natasha Johnson
Assistant Commissioner

