

## **DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

Chris Christie Governor

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Elizabeth Connolly Acting Commissioner Natasha Johnson Director

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 5064-15 M.P.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C380907 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Petitioner's application for Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") and Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner's WFNJ/GA and EA applications for failing to provide information in regard to her worker's compensation claim. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On April 20, 2015, the Honorable Richard McGill, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing and took testimony. On the same day, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision affirming the Agency's determination.

Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed by Petitioner on April 24, 2015.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have reviewed the record and the Initial Decision and hereby ADOPT the Initial Decision of the ALJ and AFFIRM the Agency's determination.

An applicant/recipient, as a condition of eligibility for WFNJ/GA benefits, shall, arriong other things, provide all necessary documentation. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.2(a)(5).

The purpose of EA is to meet the emergent needs of public assistance recipients, such as imminent homelessness, so that the recipient can participate in work activities without disruption and continue on a path to self-sufficiency. See N.J.A.C.

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10:90-6.1(a). Only WFNJ and Supplemental Security Income ("SSI") recipients are eligible for EA benefits. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a).

In the instant matter, Petitioner was unable to provide the requested information required by the Agency for her WFNJ/GA application on both the initial due date, February 9, 2015, and the second date, March 27, 2015. See Initial Decision at 3. The ALJ found that Petitioner, "had ample time to provide the requested documentation" and "did not provide an adequate explanation for the long delay in providing the requested information." Ibid. Consequently, I agree with the ALJ that the Agency properly denied Petitioner's WFNJ/GA application. Therefore, because Petitioner is neither a WFNJ recipient nor a SSI recipient, she also does not qualify for EA benefits. See N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a).

By way of comment, since Petitioner was able to obtain and submit the information related to her worker's compensation claim at a later date, she is without prejudice to reapply for WFNJ/GA cash assistance, as well as EA benefits.

By way of further comment, I have reviewed Petitioner's Exceptions and I find that the arguments made therein do not alter my decision in this matter.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision in this matter is ADOPTED and the Agency's determination is AFFIRMED.

APR 3 U 2015

Signed Copy on File at DFD, BARA

Natasha Johnson Director