

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Chris Christie Governor

Kim Guadagno Lt. Governor Division of Family Development P.O. Box 716 TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

Elizabeth Connolly
Acting Commissioner

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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 5535-15 T.R.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA580788 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from Respondent Agency's denial of Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner WFNJ/GA benefits because, purportedly, she failed to complete the WFNJ 28-day work requirement. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On May 22, 2015, the Honorable Kimberly A. Moss, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On May 22, 2015, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, which reversed the Agency's action.

No exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

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

Eligibility for WFNJ/GA cash assistance benefits shall commence after the applicant has completed a minimum of 28 days in an employment-related activity through the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development. N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.2(f)(8).

Here, the Agency denied Petitioner WFNJ/GA benefits because, purportedly, she failed to complete her WFNJ 28-day work requirement. See Initial Decision at 2.

HPW Number: 5535-15 Case Number: GA580788 07-90

Page 2

However, the record clearly indicates that Petitioner completed her WFNJ 28-day work activity, on January 21, 2015, as required pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:90-4.1. Ibid; See also Exhibit P-2. Accordingly, the ALJ reversed the Agency's action. See Initial Decision at 2. I agree. Therefore, the Agency is directed to provide WFNJ/GA benefits to Petitioner, retroactive to the date Petitioner completed her twenty-eight day work activity, on January, 2015.

Accordingly, the Initial Decision is ADOPTED and the Agency's action is REVERSED.

JUN 03 2013

Signed Copy on File at DFD, BARA

Natasha Johnson Director