



State of New Jersey

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT
PO BOX 716
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0716

ELIZABETH CONNOLLY
Acting Commissioner

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

NATASHA JOHNSON
Director
Tel: (609) 588-2000

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 01819-18 A.Q.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C166352011 (MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF SOC. SVCS..)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA"), Emergency Assistance ("EA"), and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP"), benefits. The Agency denied Petitioner WFNJ/GA benefits contending that she failed to comply with the required 28-day work activity, denied Petitioner EA benefits because she was not a WFNJ/GA benefits recipient, and denied Petitioner SNAP benefits contending that she failed to come into compliance with a previous SNAP work activity sanction. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On February 6, 2018, the Honorable Judith Lieberman, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents.

On February 7, 2018, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, affirming the Agency's determination. Here, the record reflects that Petitioner was sent notice by the Agency of the date and time that she was required to begin participation in the WFNJ 28-day work activity, a prerequisite for WFNJ/GA benefits eligibility. See Initial Decision at 2-3, 6; see also Exhibit GA R-4. The ALJ found, however, that Petitioner failed to attend her scheduled work activity, and failed to provide good cause for such failure. See Initial Decision at 3, 6; see also Exhibit GA R-5. Therefore, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of WFNJ/GA benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 6-8; see also Exhibit GA R-1, and N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.2(f)(8) and -4.1(a)(1). I agree.

The ALJ further found that, because Petitioner was ineligible for WFNJ/GA benefits, she was also ineligible for EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 8; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a). Therefore, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of EA benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 2, 8; see also Exhibit EA R-1. I also agree.

Finally, the record reflects that Petitioner's SNAP benefits were previously sanctioned for failure to comply with the mandatory work activity. See Initial Decision at 3-4, 6; see also Exhibit SNAP R-9, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-10.16. Petitioner was given an opportunity to come into compliance with her SNAP work activity, have the sanction lifted, and again begin receiving SNAP benefits. See Initial Decision at 3-4, 8; see also N.J.A.C. 10:87-10.19(c). To that end, the Agency sent Petitioner notice of the dates and times that she must participate in the required work activity. See Initial Decision at 3-4, 6; see also SNAP R-2 through SNAP R-4, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-10.4. However, the ALJ found that Petitioner failed to attend her scheduled work activity on several occasions, without good cause. See Initial Decision at 4-7; see also Exhibits SNAP R-5 through SNAP R-8. Therefore, the ALJ concluded that the Agency's denial of SNAP benefits to Petitioner was proper and must stand. See Initial Decision at 8; see also Exhibit SNAP R-9, and N.J.A.C. 10:87-10.15, -10.16. I again agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.



F,11,N,C166352011X,0027,000006775765

BARA003

As the Director of the 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 concur with the ALJ's final conclusion in this matter and hereby ADOPT the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law.

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

FEB 12 2010

Officially approved final version.

Natasha Johnson
Director

