



*State of New Jersey*

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

Division of Family Development  
P.O. Box 716  
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625

Chris Christie  
*Governor*

Kim Guadagno  
*Lt. Governor*

Jennifer Velez  
*Commissioner*

Jeanette Page-Hawkins  
*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 9388-14 A.S.

AGENCY DKT. NO. C381781 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from Respondent Agency's termination of her Work First New Jersey/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families ("WFNJ/TANF") benefits. The Agency terminated her WFNJ/TANF benefits because she had exhausted the 60 month lifetime limit for receipt of WFNJ/TANF benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On August 26, 2014, the Honorable Kimberly A. Moss, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On August 26, 2014, the ALJ issued her Initial Decision affirming the Agency determination.

No exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.

As the Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have reviewed the record for this matter and the ALJ's Initial Decision, and having made an independent evaluation of the record, I accept and adopt the Findings of Fact and the Conclusions of Law as contained in the Initial Decision.

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." However, an individual may receive additional months of cash assistance if she qualifies for an exemption to or extension of the time limit, as set forth at N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.4 and 2.5 respectively.

Page 2

Here, the record demonstrates that Petitioner has received 103 months of WFNJ/TANF benefits, thereby exhausting her 60-month lifetime limit on receipt of WFNJ benefits. However, the Agency failed to provide Petitioner with proper notice that her benefits would terminate in June 2014. At the hearing Petitioner presented a MED-1 form from her doctor rendering her disabled from March 17, 2014 until March 17, 2015. (See exhibit P-1). Petitioner also presented documentation regarding her hearing for a pending Social Security Disability claim. (See exhibit P-2).

The ALJ concluded, and I agree, that Petitioner has demonstrated that she meets the criteria for an exemption to the 60-month time limit on receipt of WFNJ benefits pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.4.

Accordingly, the Agency action is REVERSED.

OCT 31 2014

*Signed Copy on File*  
at DFD, BARA

---

Jeanette Page-Hawkins  
Director