



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

Elizabeth Connolly
Acting Commissioner

Natasha Johnson
Director
Tel. (609) 588-2400

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 18532-15 B.W.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA432490 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On January 5, 2016, the Honorable Kimberly A. Moss, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents.

On January 6, 2016, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision, reversing the Agency's determination. Here, Petitioner provided the Agency with documentation that he completed his 28-day work requirement on November 9, 2015. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit P-2. The Agency's adverse action, dated December 7, 3015, indicates the reason for Petitioner's denial is a failure to complete the 28-day work activity. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibit P-1. The ALJ concluded Petitioner did complete the work activity, and ordered a reversal of the denial of his application. Ibid. I agree.

No Exceptions to this Initial Decision were filed.

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 in this matter.

By way of comment, the transmittal in this matter reflects a contested issue pertaining to the denial of Petitioner's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP"), f/k/a the Food Stamp Program, benefits, which was not directly addressed by the ALJ in her Initial Decision. Based upon a review of the record in this matter, I find that there is not enough information to make a determination on the issue at this time. Therefore, if Petitioner still has an issue concerning a denial of SNAP benefits, he may request another fair hearing on that issue alone.

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

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

JAN 14 2016

Natasha Johnson
Director