



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development
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Chris Christie
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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 1269-15 D.M.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA479627 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from the Respondent Agency's denial of her Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") application. The Agency denied Petitioner's WFNJ/GA application because she and her ex-husband were not considered a single household. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On February 24, 2015, the Honorable Richard McGill, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents into evidence. On February 26, 2015, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision affirming the Agency's 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 ALJ's Initial Decision and hereby ADOPT the Initial Decision and AFFIRM the Agency's determination.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.7(b)(1), the composition of a WFNJ/GA assistance unit is most often either a single individual over 18 years of age, or a couple without dependent children. The assistance unit, whether one person or a couple, is treated as a single economic unit. *Ibid.*; see also N.J.A.C. 10:90-15.1 (stating the definition of an "assistance unit"). This interpretation is consistent throughout the WFNJ regulations.

During Petitioner's testimony at the Initial Hearing, the ALJ found that Petitioner was "vague as to the details, and did not give straight forward answers to simple questions about her relationship." See Initial Decision at 3. The ALJ found that the Agency, therefore, properly denied Petitioner's application for WFNJ/GA benefits. Ibid. Following an independent review of the record, I agree with the ALJ's conclusion in this matter. Therefore, I find that Petitioner's WFNJ/GA application was properly denied.

Based upon the foregoing, the Initial Decision is hereby ADOPTED, and the Agency's action is AFFIRMED.

Signed Copy on File

at DFD, BARA

APR 24 2015

Natasha Johnson
Director