



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 15768-14 D.R.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA46218 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals the Respondent Agency's denial of Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") cash benefits because his criminal history includes a disqualifying conviction for distribution of a controlled dangerous substance. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On January 23, 2015, the Honorable Richard McGill, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents into evidence. On January 30, 2015, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision which affirmed the Agency determination.

No exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

As the Deputy Director of the Division of Family Development, Department of Human Services, I have considered the record in this matter and the ALJ's Initial Decision, and having made an independent evaluation of the record, I ADOPT the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in the Initial Decision and AFFIRM the Agency determination.

Petitioner was convicted of a criminal offense involving the distribution of a controlled dangerous substance after August 22, 1996 and is therefore ineligible for WFNJ/GA cash benefits. N.J.A.C. 10:90-18.6(b)(ii)(3). Initial Decision at 2; Exhibit R-1. Petitioner's contention he has allegedly participated in various drug testing and treatment programs is immaterial to his eligibility for WFNJ/GA cash benefits. Initial Decision at 2-3; Exhibit R-2.

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

MAR 23 2015

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

Jeanette Page-Hawkins
Director