



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development
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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 15763-14 E.H.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA313770 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from Respondent Agency's termination of her Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") benefits. The Agency terminated Petitioner's WFNJ/GA benefits as it contends that Petitioner had exhausted her lifetime limit. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law for a hearing. On January 12, 2015, the Honorable Leland S. McGee, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing, took testimony and admitted documents. On January 13, 2015, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision affirming the Agency's determination.

As the 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 I concur with the ALJ's decision and hereby ADOPT the Initial Decision and AFFIRM the Agency determination.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed.

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." See also N.J.A.C. 10:90-1.1(d) ("Assistance benefits provided under WFNJ are time-limited and considered a temporary cash subsidy"). "At the end of an individual adult recipient's 60 cumulative months of receipt of cash assistance, the assistance unit shall no longer be eligible to receive [WFNJ] assistance." N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.3(a)(1).

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However, an individual who has exhausted the 60 cumulative month limit may receive additional months of cash assistance if he/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. N.J.A.C. 10:90-2.4(a)(6). The goal of WFNJ is to help the recipient achieve self-sufficiency through obtaining employment and removal from the program. See N.J.S.A. 44:10-62(a).

The record in this matter confirms that Petitioner accumulated a total of 138 months of WFNJ cash assistance. See Initial Decision at 2; see also Exhibits R-4 and R-5. The ALJ found that Petitioner had indeed exceeded her cumulative lifetime limit for cash assistance and had not produced evidence to support an assertion that she has met a requirement for an exemption to, or exhaustion of, the 60-month lifetime limit. Id. at 5. I agree.

Petitioner may reapply for an exemption or extension without prejudice, subject to applicable eligibility criteria.

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

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

MAR 03 2015

Natasha Johnson
Deputy Director