



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Division of Family Development
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Chris Christie
Governor

Kim Guadagno
Lt. Governor

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 2760-15 L.C.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA373288 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals the Respondent Agency's termination of Work First New Jersey/General Assistance ("WFNJ/GA") cash benefits because she failed to provide requested income documentation, and the subsequent denial of Emergency Assistance ("EA") benefits because she was not a WFNJ benefits recipient and had exhausted her 12-month lifetime EA benefits limit. Because Petitioner appealed, the matter was transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law ("OAL") for a hearing. On January 29, 2015, the Honorable Michael Antoniewicz, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held an emergent hearing, took testimony, and admitted documents. On January 30, 2015, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision which reversed the Agency determination and granted EA benefits. On February 20, 2015, I issued a Final Agency Decision which, in relevant part, remanded the matter to the OAL to conduct additional fact-finding regarding the Agency's denial of WFNJ/GA benefits. On March 18, 2015, the ALJ held an emergent hearing on the remanded matter and took testimony. On March 27, 2015, the ALJ issued an Initial Decision which found the Agency appropriately terminated WFNJ/GA benefits because Petitioner's countable income exceeded the applicable benefit level, and by extension, appropriately denied EA benefits.

No exceptions to the Initial Decision were received.

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 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.

I agree with the ALJ's finding that the Agency appropriately terminated WFNJ/GA benefits because Petitioner's countable income during the first two quarters of 2014 exceeded the applicable maximum benefit level. See prior hearing Exhibit R-3; Initial Decision at 2; N.J.A.C. 10:90-3.5(b). Because Petitioner was not a WFNJ/GA benefits recipient, the Agency appropriately denied EA benefits. See Initial Decision at 2; N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.2(a). Based upon the foregoing, it is unnecessary for me to address whether Petitioner is eligible for an "extreme hardship" extension of EA benefits under N.J.A.C. 10:90-6.4(b)(1).

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

APR - 9 2015

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

Natasha Johnson
Director