



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 14513-15 M.P.

AGENCY DKT. NO. GA378815 (ESSEX COUNTY DIVISION OF WELFARE)

Petitioner appeals from Respondent Agency's termination of his 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 October 13, 2015, the Honorable Danielle Pasquale, Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ"), held a plenary hearing and took testimony. No documents were admitted.

On October 20, 2015, the ALJ issued her Initial Decision reversing the Agency's determination. Based upon the evidence presented in the matter, the ALJ found that, although Petitioner was sanctioned beginning in August of 2015, the Agency could not provide a reason why Petitioner's benefits stopped in March 2015, and admitted they were inappropriately terminated. See Initial Decision at 2. Therefore, the ALJ concluded, Petitioner was eligible for WFNJ/GA cash assistance for the months in question, namely March 2015 through July 2015. *Ibid.* I agree.

No Exceptions to the Initial Decision were filed by either party.

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 Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law in this matter.

By way of comment, the termination of Petitioner's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP"), f/k/a the Food Stamp Program, benefits was a transmitted issue in this matter. Although not specifically addressed by the ALJ in the Initial Decision, based upon the ALJ's decision regarding WFNJ/GA benefits, Petitioner would also be eligible for SNAP benefits during the months in question.

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

Signed Copy on File
at DFD, BARA

OCT 28 2015

Natasha Johnson
Director